



SHADOW OF THE THIRTIES

Alan Clark on the striking parallels between Chamberlain and Major

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A new life after the Andrew Neil affair

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THE TIMES PLAY THE £50,000 GAME

See how your players are performing

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Serious allegations 'must be resolved'

Speaker calls for inquiry into 'sleaze'

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

THE Speaker yesterday increased the pressure on the Government over the cash-for-questions affair by demanding a full and speedy investigation into "very serious" allegations made against MPs and ministers since the collapse of Neil Hamilton's libel case against *The Guardian*.

Betty Boothroyd said that the reputation of the whole House had been called into question and she felt very strongly that the whole issue must be resolved quickly by an inquiry that was "as transparent as possible".

Within 90 minutes, the Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges was meeting to consider her request and to hear the parliamentary watchdog Sir Gordon Downey appeal for more staff and resources to carry out a wide-ranging inquiry that could take several months.

Miss Boothroyd took some Conservative MPs by surprise with her forthright remarks. Some were irritated that she had effectively scuppered any chance of a limited inquiry and that her strong language would keep the issue in the public eye.

Ministers had hoped that any new inquiry would not include allegations that the



"Do you ever worry your kids might drift into politics?"

promised that "all necessary steps" would be taken to ensure that the committee and Sir Gordon had enough staff.

Miss Boothroyd's intervention came as both Labour and the Liberal Democrats were pressing for a wider inquiry. Both were also urging her to rule on whether Mr Willetts should be referred to Sir Gordon for allegedly trying to influence the Commons select committee on members' interests. Last night it appeared that the case of Mr Willetts' memorandum on a conversation with the former committee chairman Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, would be considered by the committee but not specifically by Sir Gordon.

Sir Gordon has already started work on a report for the committee on *The Guardian's* claims that Mr Hamilton accepted cash from the Harrods owner Mohamed Al Fayed for tabling parliamentary questions. Both Mr Hamilton and Ian Greer, the lobbyist said by the newspaper to have acted as Mr Al Fayed's intermediary, have expressed their willingness to appear before Sir Gordon.

In her statement, Miss Boothroyd said: "While the House has been adjourned very serious allegations have been widely made about the conduct of a number of Members. Indeed, the reputation of the House as a whole has been called into question."

"As Speaker, I am bound to be concerned about that. It is not for me to make any kind of judgment on the merits of the complaints made. But I would not be doing my duty as Speaker if I allowed the situation to pass without saying that I believe very strongly that these matters must be resolved as soon as possible."

She added: "I will not allow allegations of misconduct to be made across the floor of the House. Wherever the complaints are heard, the members concerned are entitled to know precisely what it is they have to answer."

"The proceedings should be as transparent as possible so as to maintain public confidence. At the end of the issues ought to be resolved by a decision of this House."

Matthew Parris, page 2
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Woodrow Wyatt, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Blair leads crusade for family values

By Our Political Editor

TONY BLAIR yesterday reopened the battle for the moral high ground in politics with a pledge that the aim of every department in a Labour government would be to support family and community life.

In a speech in South Africa he said that his dream of the decent society in Britain would be built on the values of a strong family unit.

He defended the plans put forward by Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, for child curfews. He said parents had a responsibility to know where their children were and what they were doing. "I can see no reason at all for young children to be out on their own at night, and I can see many reasons why they should not be — not least their own safety. We are examining

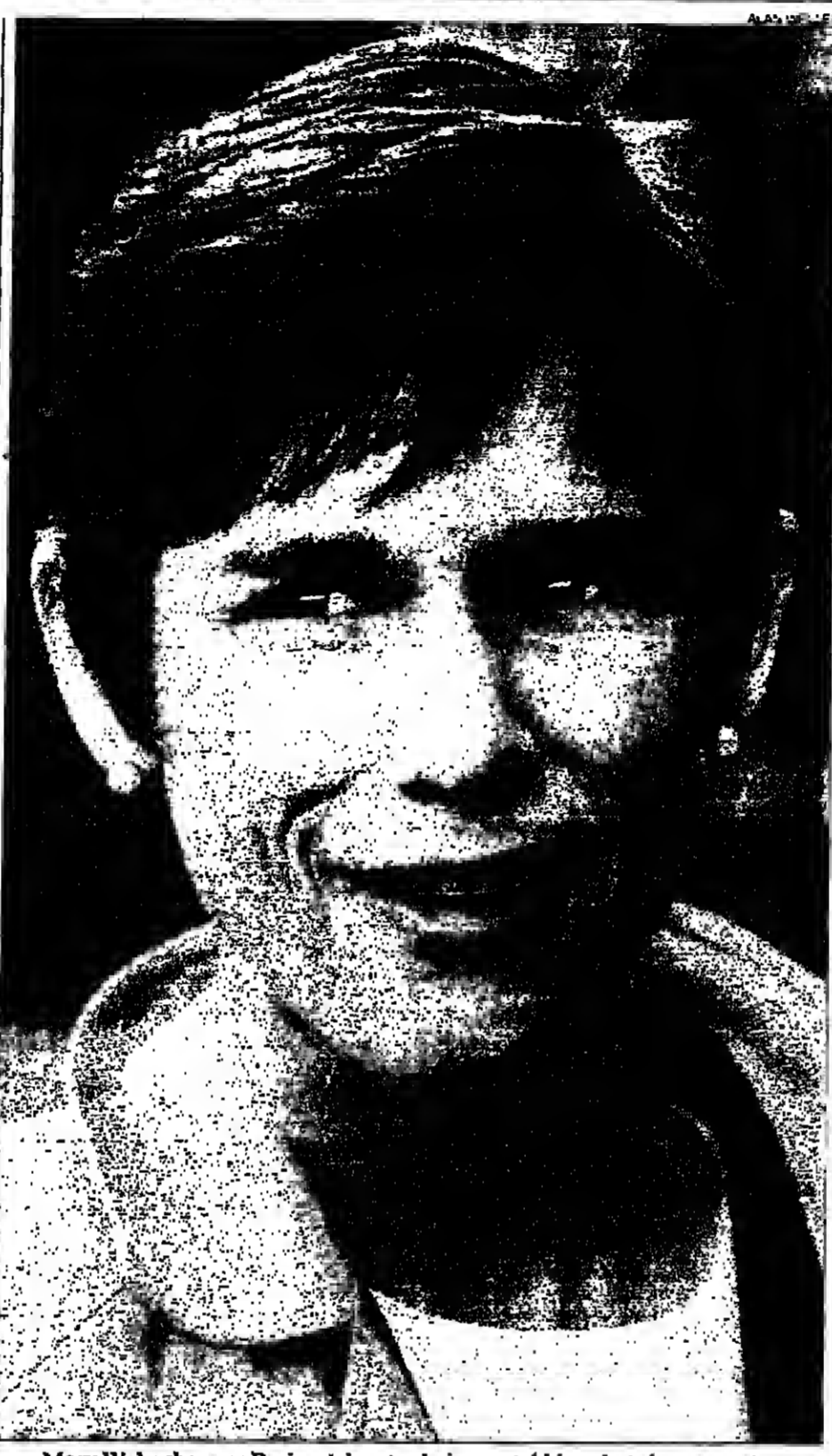
measures to tackle this. Some have called it curfew. I call it child protection."

Mr Blair denied that there was any comparison with John Major's "back to basics" campaign. "This is not some cry for a return to Victorian values but a call for a return to the basic decent values my generation grew up with but which have been eroded."

Last night the Conservatives hit back, saying that the speech was "new rhetoric with policies firmly rooted on the tradition of the nanny state."

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, said it was "just a cover up for saying Labour will interfere in people's lives". It was "phony Tony the TV evangelist".

Leading article, page 21



Barings 'owe me £500,000'

By Adrian Lee

A FORMER director of Barings bank claimed yesterday that she was entitled to a £500,000 bonus agreed the day before Nick Leeson brought the company down with losses of £860 million.

Mary Walz, who was ultimately dismissed and criticised by the Bank of England for failing to monitor Leeson's activities, said that Barings' deputy chairman had told her that she was a "star" and she believed that the bonus agreement was "set in stone".

She is claiming that the refusal by ING, the Dutch company which rescued Barings, to pay the money was an unlawful deduction of her wages. ING says that the agreement was informal, had

not been approved at senior level and that since the bank collapsed the next day, there was no profit-sharing pool from which she could be paid.

Miss Walz, 36, of Butlers Wharf, central London, was global head of equity financial products and her responsibilities included the derivatives operation in which Leeson traded in Singapore. She joined Barings in 1992 at a salary of £80,000 plus a £160,000 bonus and the following year, her bonus rose to £300,000 on top of a £93,000 salary. On January 1, 1994, she became a director and was sent to Hong Kong to oversee the bank's Far East trading, an industrial tribunal in Stratford, east London, was told.

Miss Walz said that at 11am on February 23 last year, she was called to see the deputy chairman, Andrew Tuckey, in his 18th-floor office at Barings' Bishopsgate headquarters. She said: "I knew it would be for the formal announcement of my bonus. He handed me a slip of paper containing my name and a figure of £500,000. It was the figure I expected to see. He said something like 'Mary what can I say? You are a star.' He continued how everyone was very pleased. I thanked him."

Mr Tuckey had joked that she should "not spend it all in one place" and she replied that she might spend it on a painting. "There was no mention of a painting."

Continued on page 2, col 5

Mowlam meets Maze terrorists in attempt to save ceasefire

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

MO MOWLAM, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, last night tried to shore up the loyalist ceasefire by meeting 12 Protestant paramilitary inmates at the Maze Prison.

Some of the most notorious terrorists from the Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Volunteer Force told Ms Mowlam that their ceasefire would be maintained only if London and Dublin cracked down on the IRA. The prisoners, who included Michael Stone, the UDA triple murderer, also called for loyalist inmates to be freed early as a reward for supporting the ceasefire in the face of renewed IRA terrorism.

Stone entered loyalist folklore in 1988 when he ambushed the funeral in West Belfast of three IRA terrorists who had been shot dead by the SAS in Gibraltar. Mourners at the Milltown Cemetery covered in terror as Stone killed three mourners, including a member of the IRA. He said that he had intended to murder Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, the leaders of Sinn Fein. After Stone



Adair among most brutal of loyalist terrorists

She also met Johnny Adair, the first terrorist to be convicted under a new charge of directing terrorism when he was sentenced to 16 years in September last year. Today she will pass on the prisoners' concerns to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Ms Mowlam, who was praised by Conservative MPs last night for her unprecedented meeting at the prison on the outskirts of Belfast, said she hoped her talks would underpin the loyalist ceasefire. She said: "I want to listen to their concerns and to tell them of the public support and growing respect for those loyalists who are working hard to maintain their ceasefire."

She added: "It has been tough for them to hold it. Every atrocity makes it harder for them... All I can do is to push this forward. I never cease to be impressed by the attitude of loyalists."

The names of Michael Stone and Johnny Adair are among the most notorious of loyalist terrorists. The pair were instrumental in giving the Ulster Defence Association a reputation for brutal, cold-

blooded murder in the final years of its campaign before the 1994 ceasefire.

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was jailed for 30 years. Adair took over his mantle as Ulster's most brutal loyalist terrorist.

An agenda for the start of serious multi-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland was close to settlement last night after an important breakthrough.

As Sir Patrick pledged that republicans could not bomb their way to the negotiating table, David Trimble's Ulster Unionists and John Hume's SDLP agreed the agenda for the opening plenary session at Stormont.

The proposed agenda was put before the other parties for their approval.

The Times
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Dunblane report 'fails to back total handgun ban'

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

LORD CULLEN is believed to have stepped back from calling for a total ban on handguns in his Dunblane massacre report, opting for less draconian controls.

Ministers were said to be "relaxed" about the 200-page report, which was delivered to the Government in the early hours yesterday. They are expected to agree at a Cabinet committee meeting this morning to go ahead instead with a ban on storing handguns at home. The compromise will anger campaigners in Dunblane who want a total ban.

Lord Cullen conducted a five-week inquiry after Thom-

as Hamilton shot dead 16 children and a teacher at Dunblane Primary School in March before killing himself.

Tomorrow Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, who commissioned the inquiry, and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, will publish the report and the government response. Laws to ban guns being kept at home are expected to be included in next week's Queen's Speech. The measures are expected to get through the Commons easily as they are backed by Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

Officials from the Scottish Office, the Home Office and

Downing Street yesterday discussed the report's recommendations and any implications of even a partial ban.

One problem that could arise from a ban on guns at home is a wave of compensation claims. Although the Government fought these bitterly after the Hungerford massacre, they had to pay out £600,000. A total handgun ban has been estimated to mean a £140 million bill.

Ministers are expected to recommend a tighter security regime and stricter licensing procedures.

Gun club fears, page 10

Earth cooling off after climate flip

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

AS SHARP cooling of the planet occurred this year, reversing the warming trend that began in the early 1980s, Meteorological Office scientists say.

Dr Phil Jones of the University of East Anglia and Dr Dave Parker of the office's Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research said the dip in temperature was due to a phenomenon known as the North Atlantic oscillation which has flipped for the first time in ten to 15 years.

During most years, there is low pressure over Iceland and a high over the Azores in the winter months. It means that westerly winds dominate blowing over the British Isles

and into northern Europe and Russia.

But this year there was a "flip" similar to the famous freezing winter of 1963, with a high between Scotland and Iceland and low in the Azores leading to easterly winds sweeping in from Siberia and the Arctic. These led to freezing Siberian winds blasting most of Canada and northern Europe, including Britain over Christmas and during the early part of the year.

This year will be 0.2 to 0.15 degrees C cooler than 1995, the hottest year on record, and 1990, the second hottest.

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Cereal stalker fails to dish Bottomley

"I'm only too easy to meet," cried Virginia Bottomley to a crowd of startled MPs, regathered after the summer recess yesterday, "in any number of settings."

What could the fragrant Mrs Bottomley mean? What settings did she have in mind? Parascending? Boating on the Serpentine? Call me uninventive, but a cup of tea in her office would surely do.

The Heritage Secretary had been goaded into this surprising offer by her Labour Shadow, John Cunningham. At Questions yesterday, he asked her to confirm that for £500 one could have joined Mrs Bottomley at breakfast during her party's conference last week at Bourne-mouth. "Is

that proper?" In fact, Mr Cunningham was taking something of a liberty with these reports.

It seems Tories with funds to spare were being invited to sponsor the breakfast, but those with no more than loose change to offer were still permitted to approach the great lady at the muesli bar. Still, Cunningham decided to take a crack and who can blame him?

Unable to decide whether to be indignant or dismissive, Mrs B decided to be coquettish. So cheery a picture did she paint of her approachability at breakfast, at tea-time or at any other time, that one wondered where she finds any time at all to be Heritage



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Secretary. This merry informality she contrasted with the "£1,000 Labour charge for nosh-ups with Tony Blair in Park Lane".

It seems an odd reversal of the old certainties, much in keeping with John Major's attacks on the old school tie brigade on Labour's front bench. Time was when a Tory would have boasted how expensive they were to dine with, not how cheap. When Tam Dalyell returned to the subject minutes later, Mrs Bottomley went further. For

most breakfasters at Bourne-mouth, she insisted, "it cost only £7.50 to join her."

And there was more. "I am available at virtually every major tourist event."

Really? The Changing of the Guards and Mrs Bottomley? Bottomley at Stonehenge? Bottomley among the Crown Jewels? Bottomley at the Zoo? At your picnic at Henley? Leading the donkey rides at Cleethorpes? There can only be one logical conclusion to Mrs Bottomley's dash for crowd appeal.

Can Mystic Meg's contract with the BBC be safe for much longer? MPs had reconvened yesterday to be told of the death of Terry Patchett. They knew already, of course, but by custom these announcements are made immediately after prayers and before the business of the day. "I regret to have to report to the House the death of Terry Patchett," said Betty Boothroyd, in a tone respectful but perfectly matter-of-fact, "the Member for Barnsley East." And, after a terse message of condolence, that was that. The House moved on.

In *The Literary Companion to Parliament*, an anthology shortly to be published by

Hospital doctor dies of Aids-related illness

A young anaesthetist who took part in hundreds of operations over four years has died of an Aids-related illness. Wigan and Leigh Health Services NHS Trust said that, although he helped surgeons to administer drugs using a syringe there was no risk of his blood passing to patients.

The doctor, who came to Britain from the Indian sub-continent, worked at Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Leigh Infirmary and Billinge Hospital. Before that he worked in Yorkshire, Humberstone and Kent. He told his employers that he had Aids only last Wednesday, two days before his death.

Hague escapes by helicopter

The Welsh Secretary, William Hague, was rescued by helicopter when 100 farmers protesting against the Government's handling of BSE used tractors, muck-spreaders and other machinery to blockade roads at Crymych, Dyfed. Mr Hague, who was visiting a school, was taken by police helicopter to his next engagement, at Cardigan.

Two die as new road opens

Two people died in a crash on a new dual carriageway three hours after it was opened by the Transport Minister John Wats. A tanker, a saloon car and a mini-bus collided on the A249 Sheppey link road near Sittingbourne, Kent. The road cost £35 million to build and workers had just finished removing barriers when the accident happened.

Quinlivan detained by police

Nessan Quinlivan, the IRA terrorist who escaped from Brixton Prison in 1991, was arrested in the Irish Republic yesterday. Quinlivan, 31, was detained with another man in Limerick City under the Offences Against the State Act. He can be held for 48 hours without charge. Quinlivan is currently on bail awaiting an appeal against extradition to Britain.

LSE rejects higher fees

A plan to charge students at the London School of Economics up to £1,500 in course fees has been abandoned by the governors, who want more time to consider how "top-up" fees would affect those from low-income backgrounds. The LSE has also decided not to charge a £300 entry levy in 1997 if cuts in funding are not restored.

Runaway girl sought by police

A man has disappeared with his landlady's ten-year-old daughter after offering to take her for a walk. Paul Husbands, 51, is thought to have planned to run away with Ann-Marie Radbourne after taking extra clothing from her home in Paignton, Devon, where he had lodged for two months. He was last seen leaving the house with her at 11.30am on Sunday. Police are appealing for him to contact them.



Guerin police claim progress

Police investigating the murder of crime journalist Veronica Guerin in Dublin said they have seized more than 100 guns, broken up three criminal gangs, seized £500,000 in cash and cannabis worth £600,000 since the shooting in June. Detectives said the killing is not thought to have been carried out by contract killers, as first believed, but by gunmen acting on the orders of a known crime boss.

Dangerous double killer on run

A double killer was still on the run last night after absconding last month from an open prison where he was being prepared for release. David Burgess, 49, walked out of Leyhill open prison near Bristol where he was being detained for the murder of two nine-year-old girls in 1967. Police in Avon and Somerset described him as dangerous.

MPs to congratulate Damon Hill

MPs will be asked today to sign an early day motion tabled by the Labour MP Richard Burden to congratulate Damon Hill and his team on winning the Formula One World Championship. More than 1.5 million viewers got up before 4.45am on Sunday to watch the BBC's live broadcast of Hill's victory in the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka.

Critics dismiss proposed safeguards for independence as inadequate

FO backs Birt plans for World Service

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND CAROL MIDGLEY

JOHN BIRT'S shake-up of the BBC World Service was broadly endorsed by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, last night in the face of widespread criticism of the reforms.

An independent report into the changes urged Mr Birt, the BBC Director-General, to introduce various safeguards to protect the World Service but did not oppose the main proposals to merge the service with other BBC news departments. Mr Birt faced widespread criticism from senior World Service managers and MPs after he announced radical restructuring to cut costs.

Under the plans, English language programmes, which make up one-fifth of the output, are to be commissioned

from BBC Productions or independent producers, while news is to be commissioned from BBC News.

Critics have claimed that the changes would "rip the heart out of the World Service". But yesterday Mr Rifkind met Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC, to agree that the reforms should go ahead with safeguards to ensure the service's future independence.

Last night opponents of the restructuring said the measures were too weak. Stephen Parker, of Save the World Service, said: "The actual ethos, the fundamental factor that makes the World Service so distinctive, will be lost."

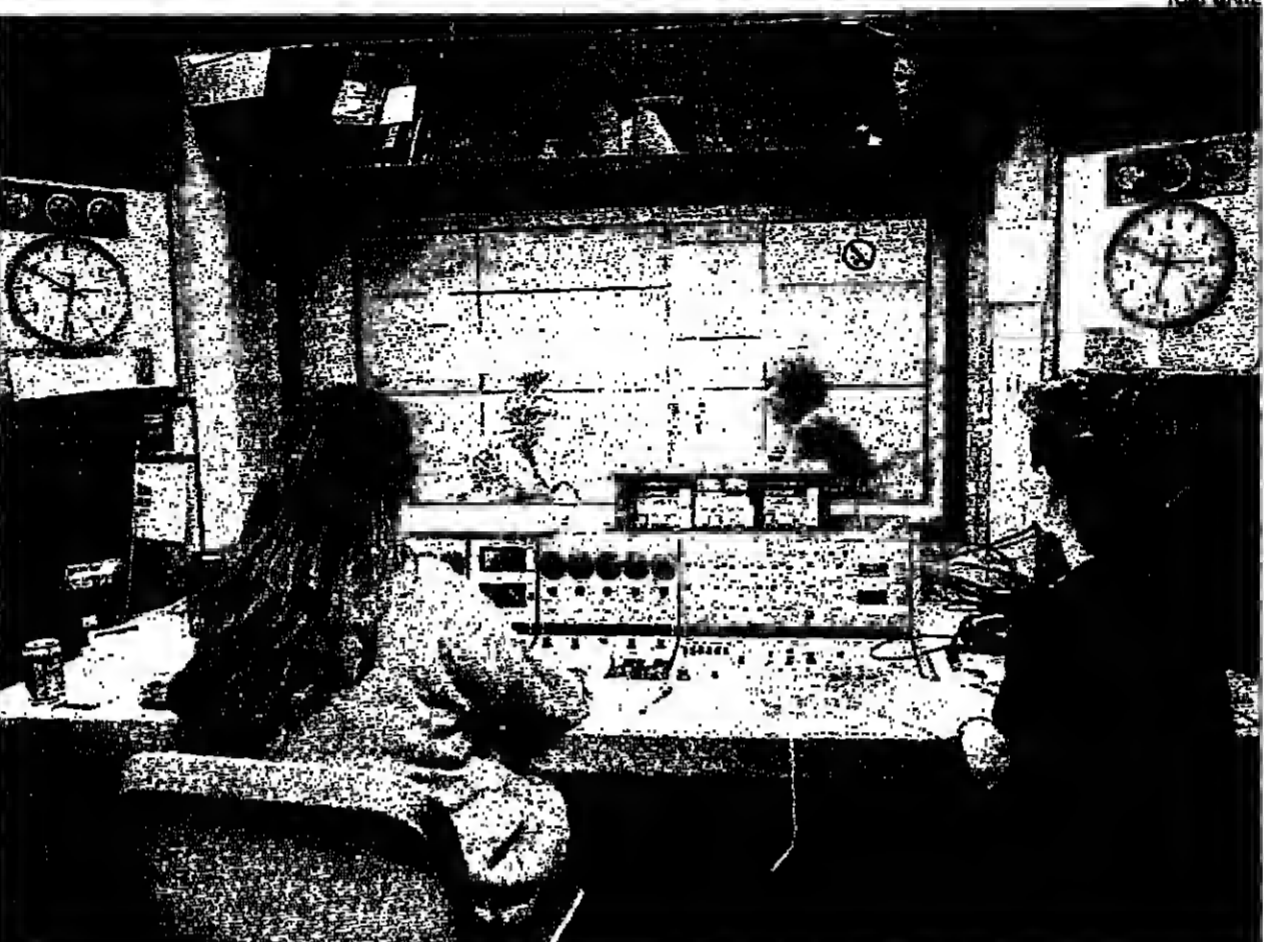
"That is very much based upon the people here at Bush House and they will be lost because a sizeable number will be working in other parts of the BBC."

John Tusa, the former head of the World Service and a staunch opponent of the plans, was also said to be disappointed at the compromise.

But Mr Birt said: "The process has strengthened the World Service, helped safeguard the quality and ethos of a service we all value."

Sir Christopher added: "We welcome the clear and explicit safeguards contained in the working group's report; we believe we now have a firm foundation for the detailed planning and implementation of the reorganisation process."

Mr Birt faced a formidable



The World Service will leave Bush House, under plans endorsed by Malcolm Rifkind yesterday



Birt put forward plans to cut costs

protest campaign - involving prominent public figures, over his plans. He said the news operations of the World Service and the domestic BBC would be merged under one roof. The World Service would move from its historic home Bush House to be produced from the BBC's television headquarters in west London, in a move which would save money and improve the service. Critics said it split the end of the World Service's editorial independence.

Although the report by the working group set up in the wake of the furor insists that the World Service should be a dedicated unit, it does not oppose a merger. Foreign Office sources acknowledged that the World Service staff would move to White City

from Bush House but said they would operate as a separate unit.

The report says the main priority must be to keep together the team producing English World Service news and current affairs programmes and services in foreign languages. Although the authors of the report recognised that there might be a period when the two sections were separated as staff moved to a new headquarters, they emphasised that the period should be kept to a minimum.

Campaigners said last night there had been no significant changes to Mr Birt's plans. "We have still to be convinced. There is still a lot of concern," said one BBC insider.

Tusa calls for TV news to show reality of war

THE "ghastly reality" of war must not be hidden from British television viewers, a former head of the BBC World Service said yesterday. John Tusa also said the news networks must avoid "a pornography of violence".

Speaking at an awards ceremony for freelance cameramen, Mr Tusa said: "Bloodstains on the ground or a small crater are wholly inadequate substitutes for the actuality of multiple killings. It is an evasion to say that they are aod a misuse of the bravery of camera crews and journalists, whether they are

freelance or not, to say that they are."

He went on: "We must avoid a pornography of violence, where networks start to compete with one another in the amount of gore they show. But when some viewers complain about violence on the news, when it is an essential part of the knowledge needed to assess what is happening, I believe the only answer is to say, 'I'm sorry, we will not censor the ghastly reality, for that is the only way that you the voters, the citizens, can be properly informed about the world.'"

Baldry squares up for fight with EU over Spanish 'quota hopping'

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG

EUROPE'S fishing ministers yesterday rejected a call by Brussels for a 40 per cent cut in the fish catch but Britain set the scene for a fight with the rest of the union over "quota-hopping" Spanish trawlers.

Bombarded with criticism by ministers, Emma Bonino, the Fisheries Commissioner, edged away from her insistence last spring on a fierce cut in the fishing fleet. Officials said the Commission could accept a reduction in fleet of about 15 per cent provided measures were in place to

ensure a heavier reduction in the catch over six years, especially of endangered stocks, such as cod, haddock and sardines. Philippe Vasseur, the French Agriculture Minister, said he believed the ministers would eventually settle by the end of the year on a 10 per cent reduction in the fleet with measures to ensure conservation.

Britain staked out ground for conflict by saying it refused to contemplate any reduction in fleet capacity until the EU barred quota-hopping, the practice under which Spanish vessels have bought rights to fish from British quotas. The

European Court rejected a British appeal against the practice and London is insisting on reversing the law with a protocol in the revised Maas-tricht treaty, now under negotiation. Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, told the other ministers that it was "crazy" that Spanish vessels should be taking a fifth of Britain's allowed catch.

He became involved in a testy exchange with Loyola de Palacio, the Spanish minister, after she interrupted him to reject the suggestion that Spanish vessels were involved in "piracy". Britain's insistence on quotas jarred

with its support for the free movement of goods and capital in the European Single Market, she said.

Since the European treaty negotiations will not end until next June at the earliest, Britain is likely to be out-voted over fishing capacity as early as December. The new fishing programme, to run from 1997, is determined by qualified majority vote, a system that gives Britain no veto power.

Mr Baldry insisted that Britain would not disobey the law but did not explain how it could still refuse "to contemplate any reduction in its capacity,

Barings 'star' claims £500,000

Continued from page 1

tion of the award being provisional or requiring any further approval." The next day, Leeson's losses were uncovered and Miss Walz was subsequently told that the bonus would not be paid.

Miss Walz was held to be partly to blame for Leeson's actions, and on May 1 she was summoned to the 20th floor and presented with two letters: one of resignation, the other of dismissal. She said she chose to be fired because there was no financial inducement to resign.

Miss Walz said that she understood her annual bonus was guaranteed, whatever the company's performance. It was not feasible that Mr Tuckey would have communicated the bonus figure to her if it were provisional. "Mr Tuckey was simply the boss."

Anthony Sendall, for Miss Walz, said that the bonus was due to be paid in two tranches - £20,000 and £480,000 - for tax reasons. By offering her the bonus, or

at least the expectation of one, Barings had entered into a contract. "We say that notification took place on 23rd February 1995. "We say the bonus then became contractual."

Bonuses were entirely expected by Barings' staff and were frequently many times higher than the basic salary; in 1993 the company's "bonus pool" for all its employees was almost £106m, roughly half the profits.

Mr Nicholas Underhill, QC, for ING Barings, said that it was preposterous that anyone in Miss Walz's position should expect a bonus for a year in which the company suffered huge losses.

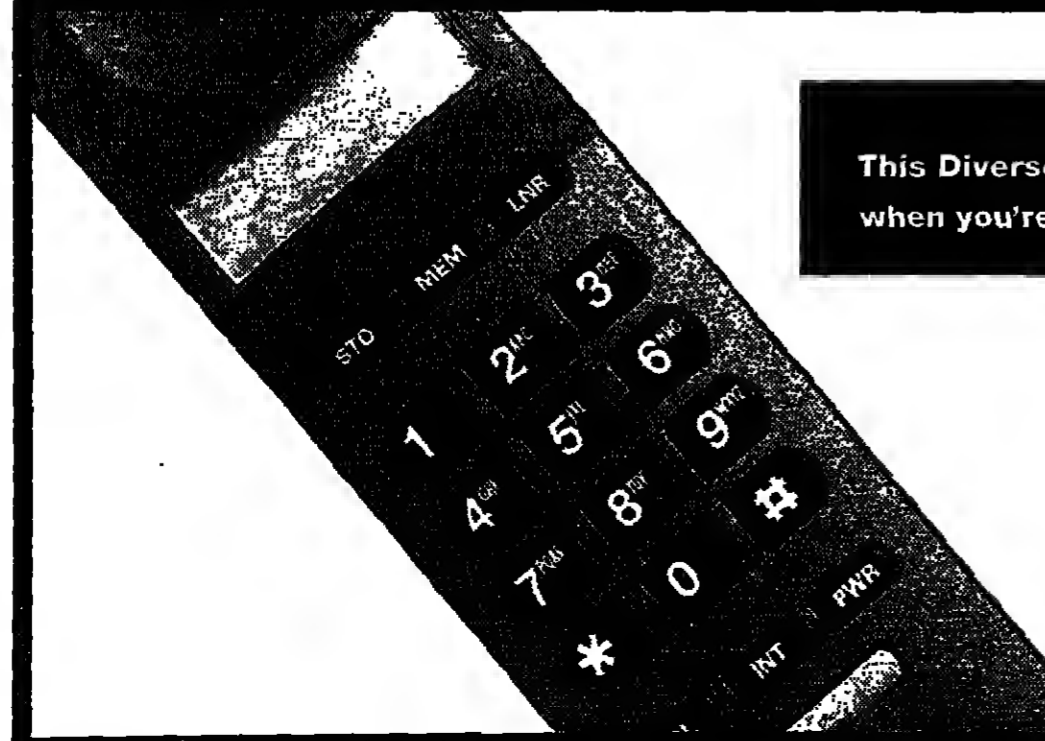
"This is a surprising claim. What is surprising is that Barings' global head of equity financial products can claim to be entitled to receive a bonus in respect of a period in which Barings' derivatives division in Singapore had made catastrophic losses that drove the bank into insolvency. It would be surprising if she

was entitled to a bonus in these circumstances whether or not she was culpable." tion of the award being provisional or requiring any further approval."

Mr Underhill thought there could be no dispute that she had "some responsibility" for Leeson, even if not in every respect. "It was the evening following Miss Walz's being given her slip of paper that the balloon went up." But that was a side issue. "It is quite incredible she could have a legitimate expectation of payment of bonus at that time. There are serious criticisms of her conduct."

She had not, however, been singled out in having her bonus refused. No other Barings employee was given a bonus under the company profit-share scheme that year. Some employees, not named by the scandal and retained by ING, were given a different sort of bonus from ING funds as a form of "handcuffs" to ensure that they stayed with the bank.

The hearing continues today.



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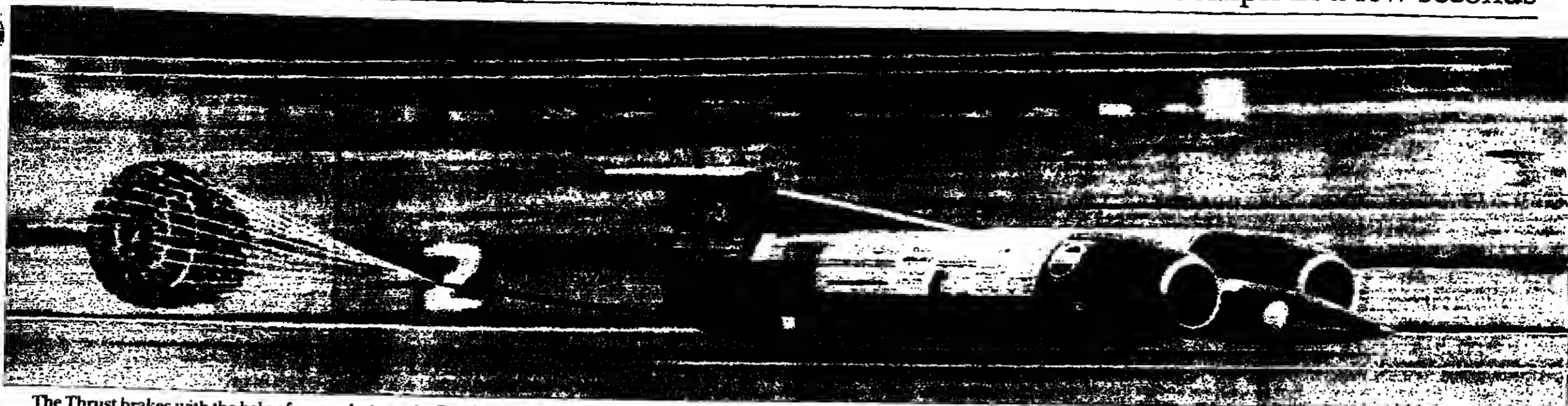
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Tornado fighter pilot enjoys the ride as Britain's Thrust blasts from 0 to 200mph in a few seconds



The Thrust brakes with the help of a parachute on the Farnborough runway yesterday. At the controls was Flight Lieutenant Andy Green, below, who usually pilots a Tornado jet. Picture by CHRIS HARRIS

Rocket car cleared for take-off on way to drive speed record through sound barrier

By ALAN CUPPS

THE British car designed to push the land-speed record beyond the sound barrier reached 200 miles an hour on the runway at Farnborough airfield yesterday as its team prepared to set off for full-scale testing in the Jordanian desert.

The ten-tonne Thrust SSC, powered by twin Rolls-Royce jet engines, took just a few seconds to reach the maximum speed permitted along the runway at the Defence Engineering and Research Agency in Hampshire.

It was driven by Flight Lieutenant Andy Green, the RAF Tornado pilot selected to make the

attempt to break the current record of 633mph held by Richard Noble, the director of the Thrust project.

Flight Lieutenant Green said a series of test runs on the 8,000ft Farnborough runway had demonstrated the car's stability and that it had proved surprisingly easy to drive. The stability is ensured by an array of computer-controlled hydraulic systems.

Although the timing of the record attempt has now slipped by more than a year from its original schedule, Mr Noble said he was confident the car would be ready to break his existing record at a subsonic speed of around 650mph during the team's month-long stay

at the Al-Jafr airbase in Jordan. The attempt on the speed of sound, 750mph, is now expected to take place early next year in the Black Rock Desert, Nevada.

Mr Noble admitted that the Thrust project faced a formidable rival in Craig Breedlove, the veteran American record-breaker, who has just completed test runs at 400mph on the Bonneville Salt Flats in his latest car, Spirit of America, also designed to break the sound barrier. He is now expected to move to the Blackrock Desert to make an attempt on that speed as soon as possible.

The Jordanian test site offered a harder and more consistent surface and more reliable weather

than the American track, said Mr Noble. But maximum speed was limited because at 10.2 miles the Al-Jafr track is shorter than Blackrock. Breedlove is expected to need at least 14 miles in his attempt.

Yesterday's test was the last public appearance of Thrust SSC in Britain before the car and its supporting equipment is packed into a giant Antonov transport aircraft for the flight to Jordan. The car will first have to be transported by road to Stansted airport in Essex because the fully laden Antonov could not take off from Farnborough.

Hill's morning after, page 52



Olympic bobsleigh driver given life ban for using steroids

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

MARK TOUT, Britain's Olympic bobsleigh driver, has been banned from the sport for life after testing positive for anabolic steroids.

Tout, 35, a former corporal in the Royal Tank Regiment, has become the first British competitor in any Winter Olympics sport to test positive for drugs. He has been banned for taking stanozolol, the anabolic steroid that the Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson was using when he was stripped of the world record and Olympic 100 metres title in Seoul in 1988.

Tout, from London, had been training to take part in the 1998 Games in Nagano. They would have been his fifth Winter Olympics, something no other Briton has achieved. He was the driver of both the four-man and two-man bobs, which finished fifth and sixth respectively at the 1994 Games in Lillehammer. It was his ambition to end his career with an Olympic medal.

Tout was caught after a random out-of-competition test last month in Britain, supervised by sampling officers of the Sports Council. He said yesterday: "I felt I wouldn't be caught, otherwise I wouldn't have done it. I will



Tout believed that he would not be caught

not be appealing against the decision. I have to pick myself up again and throw myself into survival."

Speaking on BBC radio he said: "I completely regret doing it. I have seen what has happened to other people and their careers. I would not want anybody to feel how I feel at the moment. At the same time I am not blind. I am an educated adult. I see what goes on in the world and I see what goes on in sport in general. You have to take your own view on that."

"I feel like I have failed. I have come a long way in the sport and we have worked very, very hard to achieve that.

I feel that I have spoiled that by making a silly mistake and personally I feel that I have failed because I have come so close and now won't get the chance to complete the picture."

The British Bobsleigh Association's regulation of a life-ban is among the harshest in British sport. Most governing bodies have only a four-year ban for a first offence, even for a serious case such as anabolic steroids, the hormone drugs that help competitors to build muscle and recover more quickly from intensive exercise.

Bobsleigh has been dominated in Britain by members of the Armed Forces. They have the time for hours of weight-training to develop the power to push the bobs as fast as possible and for the months of practice in countries such as Switzerland, Austria and France. Britain does not have a bobsleigh run.

Johnny Woodall, a former British Champion and Army major, said: "I am totally amazed by the news. Tout has had enough negative tests for this to be the most extraordinary bolt out of the blue. Maybe he was feeling as he gets older that his performance was suffering and he needed to do something to boost it. But I cannot believe it had been going on very long."

Provost resigns over new battle of Flodden

By IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN by two women to take part in a male-dominated ceremony dating back to the Scottish defeat at Flodden in 1513 led a council leader to resign yesterday.

Tom Hogg stepped down as provost of the Scottish border town of Hawick rather than fight the women in the sexual discrimination case which they are bringing. The Equal Opportunities Commission is due to decide next week whether it will back the women's case, but has already told them that it has sympathy for their cause.

Mr Hogg said yesterday in a letter of resignation that he was facing an unprecedented situation with which none of his predecessors had been forced to grapple.

"I have a deep belief in the traditions and customs from which Hawick has grown, and



Women at war: Miss Simpson, left, and Ms Graham

I cannot and will not betray these now," he wrote in his letter of resignation. "God knows that I've tried every minute of these last six months to resolve the issue that's tearing my town apart, but it remains unresolved."

As provost, Mr Hogg, 50, was in charge of the town's Common Riding festival, a series of 16 rides in June to commemorate a successful charge by boys of the town against a camp of English soldiers after the battle of Flodden. That ride is believed to have saved Hawick from being sacked and an annual festival has been held around the date to commemorate the event. Only men, however, have been allowed to take part other than for a short period between 1926 and 1931, when a number of women were allowed to join in by special

invitation. No invitations were issued after that because one of the women taking part fell off, broke a leg and delayed the proceedings.

This year, however, Ashley Simpson and Mandy Graham, two horseriding enthusiasts from the town, decided to take part. "It was something I have always wanted to do," Miss Simpson, 23, said yesterday. "We were showered with abuse as we rode out, being called 'scum' and 'whore'. I have had a pint of beer tipped over me in a pub since then. But I think that this is a celebration for the whole town and not just for men. It is my history as much as theirs. I am not a feminist. I just want to participate."

However, Frank Scott, secretary of the Common Riding, said: "If women took part it would spoil everything."

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Film about IRA leader stumbles at US opening

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

A FILM that stops just short of glorifying the birth of guerrilla warfare in Ireland has had a dismal opening weekend in America, thanks to bored reviews and dubious claims to authenticity.

The three-hour *Michael Collins*, billed by Warner Brothers as a definitive epic on one of the IRA's founders, barely registered at the box office. In spite of months of publicity it took in little more than \$1 million nationwide and was trounced by a children's film about ice hockey, among other new releases.

Critics derided the film as action-packed but bland and unequal to its potent theme. "It is a short distance between the classic and the cliché and *Michael Collins* crosses it in record time," the *New York Daily News* declared. *USA Today* complained that the film "falls between two extremes".

The Irish director Neil Jordan had delivered "a fantasia on historical themes" instead of "rigorous and nuanced honesty", *Time* magazine concluded.



Liam Neeson in *Michael Collins*, which opened in the US at the weekend

Bosnia peace hero criticised as too political

General Rose could be outflanked for top post

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE SECOND most senior officer in the Army could be beaten to its top post of Chief of the General Staff in a string of Defence Ministry appointments to be announced next month.

General Sir Michael Rose, 56, the Adjutant General and probably Britain's best known army commander after a distinguished career in the SAS, is viewed by some in the MoD as the obvious choice for the army's most senior appointment.

However, General Sir Roger Wheeler, 54, who commands three quarters of the Army, is now considered to be the favourite to take the top job, which is expected to become vacant early next year. As Adjutant General, General Rose fills the No. 2 slot among the military members of the Army Board. General Wheeler is lower down the pecking order.

The apparent rivalry for the most senior post between General Rose and General Wheeler has arisen because of the widespread expectation

inside the MoD that General Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff, is to be promoted to the overall top Services' job of Chief of the Defence Staff.

The present Chief of the Defence Staff, Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, is due to retire early next year. General Guthrie and Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, are the only names on the shortlist to be the next Chief of the Defence Staff.

The Navy has been vigorously promoting Admiral Slater for the top military appointment, underlining not only his own credentials but also the quality of the candidates to replace him as First Sea Lord. One of the names put forward was Admiral Sir Hugo White, Governor of Gibraltar.

However, in recent weeks, General Guthrie has emerged as the favoured candidate. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, is understood to have recommended the army man to replace Field Marshal



Rose: reputation for inspired leadership

Inge. The prospect of having another general as Chief of the Defence Staff instead of an admiral has caused concern in the Navy.

If General Guthrie is confirmed by No 10 and Buckingham Palace as the next Chief of the Defence Staff, General Rose would normally be expected to move up to be No 1 in the Army.

Some in the MoD are cautioning against his ap-

pointment on the ground that he might be too "political". When General Rose was commander of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1994, he adopted a high-profile position which made him enemies at UN headquarters, although he was always publicly supported by the Government in London.

General Rose, who has a reputation for inspirational leadership, commanded 22 SAS from 1979 to 1982 and was commander of the regiment in the Falklands during the 1982 conflict with Argentina. He has also been Director Special Forces and commander of 39 Infantry Brigade in Northern Ireland.

General Wheeler, a member of an established military family, is Commander-in-Chief Land Command, responsible for the fighting element of the Army - about 67,500 troops. He took up the appointment in March after three years as General Officer Commanding, Northern Ireland. His first commission was into his father's regiment, The Royal Ulster Rifles.

CSA introduces new criteria to payment rules

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

NEW rules on working out Child Support Agency payments were announced last night by the Department of Social Security. In future any parent incurring travel expenses to see a child will have the amount offset against their income before CSA maintenance is assessed.

The rules will also apply to cases in which a partner has received a "clean break" settlement on divorce and those in which parents are concealing their true incomes.

Andrew Mitchell, the Social Security Minister, also accepted the shortcomings of the agency as outlined in a report by the government Ombudsman. He said they were mainly cases from the early days of the agency, when clients did not get the level of service they had every right to expect.

However, changes such as an independent complaints examiner, better compensation arrangements and more efficient systems were helping to produce radical improvements to the CSA.

Among the cases highlighted by Sir William Reid, the Parliamentary Commissioner

for Administration, was that of a woman threatened by her former husband after the CSA mistakenly sent him a note containing information she had supplied.

The breach of confidence so alarmed the Ombudsman that he proposed to raise the incident with Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, unless the CSA gave her cash compensation. Initially the agency rejected any compensation and told Sir William that rules on special payments did not cover such "intangibles as worry and distress". Eventually it offered £250.

Over £6,000 was paid out in other cases investigated by the Ombudsman, who said yesterday: "Complaints against the CSA continue to form a disproportionate part of my caseload."

Most problems concerned errors and delays in dealing with applications from women for child-support maintenance. In one case, the CSA was so slow that the father in question had been made redundant by the time it was ready to assess his maintenance payments.

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Warning over fruit drink additives by food watchdog

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

FRUIT-FLAVOURED bottled spring water contains a mix of potentially dangerous chemicals and is often loaded with sugar, the Food Commission claims today. It says that some are produced with low-cost additives and that manufacturers exploit an unjustified image of purity to push prices as high as £2.80 a litre.

Research into 24 brands published in *Food Magazine* shows that many of the most popular brands contain preservatives, colourings, artificial sweeteners and other additives. The commission says this makes a mockery of claims of purity on labels.

Unlike mineral water, spring water has no legal definition and is usually obtained from bore holes into underground reservoirs. The

addition of flavourings means it technically becomes a soft drink, making it legal to use chemicals including artificial sweeteners such as aspartame, which costs just 0.1pp to flavour two litres of liquid, against 12p for sugar.

Where real sugar is used, the amounts are high. Sainsbury's tangerine flavoured Crystal Spa was found to contain more than a Coca-Cola and a 250ml carton of Ribena Spring had the equivalent of seven lumps. The British Dental Association said spring water drinks containing sugar increased the risk of tooth decay.

More serious, according to the magazine, is the use of the preservative sodium benzoate in half the products tested, which some research suggests may cause breathlessness and trigger hyperactivity, even though it has been approved by the European Union.

Christine Milburn, of the British Soft Drinks Association, said members were bound by regulations which ensured the purity of the source. "We add nothing

which has not been tested and approved by all 15 member states of the EU."

An EU directive passed last July means that manufacturers have to list all additives on the label, but it will be next summer before this comes fully into force. SmithKline Beecham, manufacturer of Ribena, said: "We use real sugar rather than artificial sweeteners because that is more wholesome."

Marks & Spencer adds aspartame and sodium benzoate. "These are both on the approved list of additives," a spokesman said. Sainsbury's said all the products tested by the commission were "designed to be refreshing". Company policy was to provide as much information as possible to customers. The company was now reviewing soft drink labels and would add "with sweetener" to them where applicable.

Tesco denied that its labelling was misleading. Its water was from a 100 per cent natural source flavoured with natural fruit juices and there was no added sugar, it said.

Water companies say six new reservoirs are needed

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SIX new reservoirs will be needed in east and south-east England to ensure water supplies into the next century as demand rises because of global warming and an increase in single households, water companies in England and Wales said yesterday.

The warning was issued in advance of a government report on water resources into the 21st century, due today. The report will outline the threat to rivers, wetlands and other nature sites if too much is taken for supplies.

The Department of the Environment says that demand is soaring because of the

popularity of gardening and a projected growth in new households to more than four million, as well as rising temperatures and more frequent droughts.

Professor Paul Harrington of Loughborough University, who compiled the report, predicted that domestic consumption for appliances and gardening would rise by 36 per cent by 2021, and 41 per cent if there is significant global warming.

Brian Duckworth, managing director of Severn Trent and spokesman for the Water Services Association, which represents nine of the ten big companies, said domestic consumers would not accept more rationing so action had to be taken now for the future.

He said that there "was a requirement for at least six new reservoirs to ensure an adequate margin of safety. They will be destined for the East and South East." Two have already been proposed in Oxfordshire and Kent.

The Environment Agency has urged the companies to tackle leaks and demand management before it will consider backing development of new, and potentially environmentally damaging, resources such as reservoirs.



The Princess with Danielle Stephenson yesterday. The seven-year-old underwent pioneering surgery in May to rectify an irregular heartbeat.

Princess praises 'miracles' of heart surgeons

By EMMA WILKINS

DIANA, Princess of Wales praised the "miracles" performed by heart specialists and the courage of their patients yesterday.

"The Princess was helping to raise money for research into heart and lung disease with the help of Danielle Stephenson, from Southend, Essex. The girl is among dozens of heart patients the Princess has visited regularly at the Royal Brompton Hospital in west London.

At a reception in aid of the Heart of Britain charity, the Princess said she was "fascinated by the workings of the heart". In the forward to a book of photographs aimed at raising money for the charity, the Princess wrote: "I have been privileged to see for myself the miracles — at the very leading edge of medicine today — performed by the teams of surgeons, doctors and nurses at Royal Brompton Hospital, whose dedication saves so many lives.

"I have been profoundly impressed, too, to see how bravely patients cope — and have been particularly touched by the courage and trust shown by Britain's little people — our children. All need our compassion, our love and our support at what is often their darkest hour."

Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub, the joint president of Heart of Britain who invited the Princess to attend an operation at Harefield Hospital in April, praised her "inspirational" care and compassion at the reception at Harrods, which was hosted by the store's chairman, Mohamed Al Fayed. The charity book contains 300 photographs showing scenes of modern life, submitted to a competition by amateur photographers. It costs £19.99, with all profits going to the charity.

Danielle became one of the first children in Britain to undergo new treatment in May this year to burn away abnormal electrical pathways inside her heart that were causing an irregular heartbeat.



Yates went to police

Yates gets bail in drug case

Paula Yates, the television presenter, has been released on police bail until December while investigations continue into the alleged discovery of opium at her home. Miss Yates, 36, former wife of Bob Geldof, was arrested when she went to Chelsea police station. She is said to have maintained that any drugs found at the home she shares with the rock singer Michael Hutchence must have been planted.

Aids man named

A hospital anaesthetist who died of an Aids-related virus, prompting hundreds of inquiries from worried patients, has been named as Gopinathan Manohar. Mr Manohar, married with a three-year-old son, was a registrar anaesthetist at the Royal Albert Edward Hospital in Wigan.

'Eco' evictions

Bailiffs evicted more than 50 protesters who had barricaded themselves into a self-styled eco-village set up on a 13-acre site beside the Thames in Wadsworth, southwest London, on derelict land owned by Guinness. One protester was arrested.

CORRECTION

A report, "Call for curb on stage hypnotists" (September 23), failed to make clear that Philip Green, was not the hypnotist in the stage act in which Sharon, Tabarr, was involved, and was not connected in any way with her subsequent death. We apologise to Mr Green and his family.

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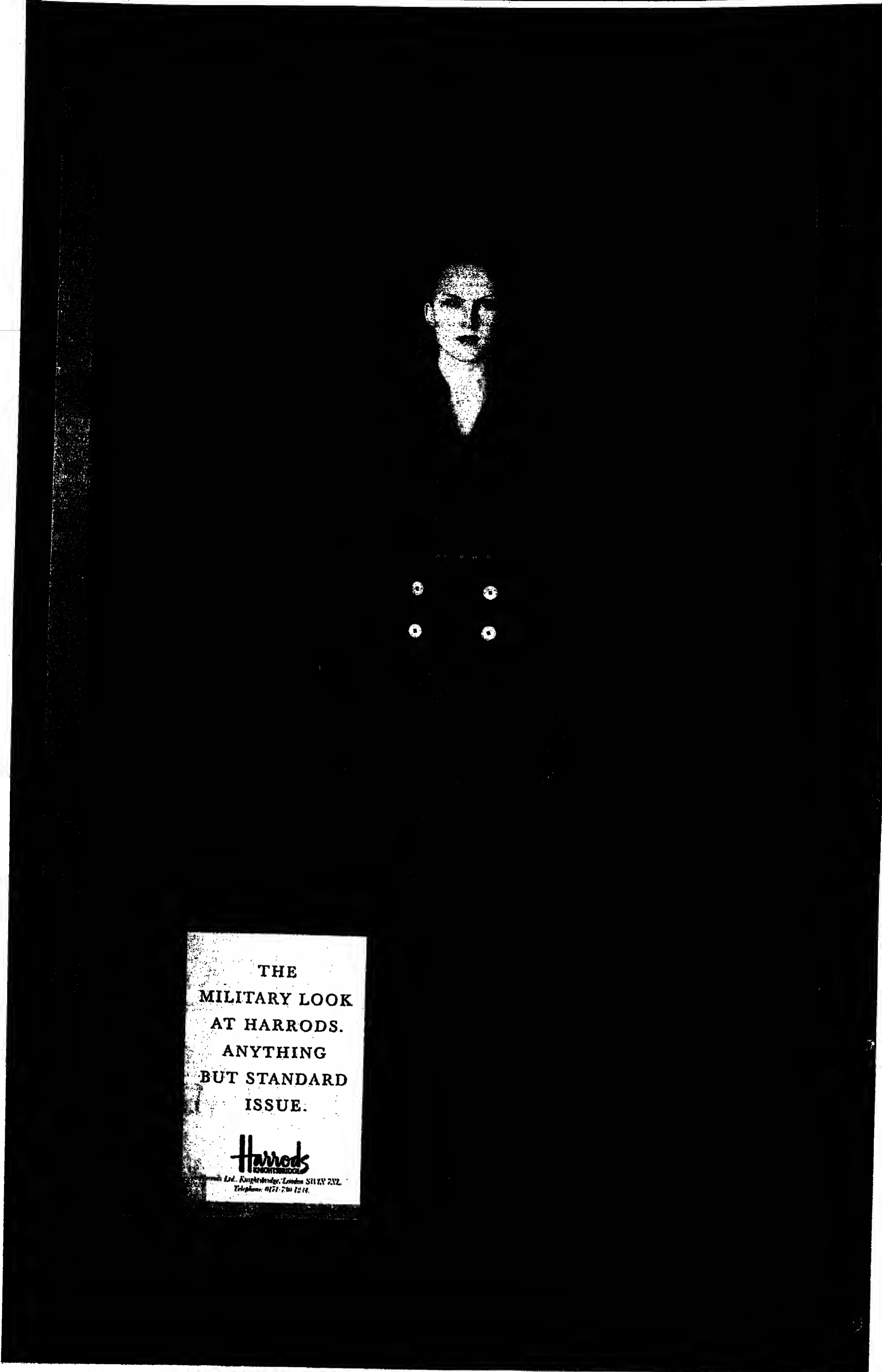
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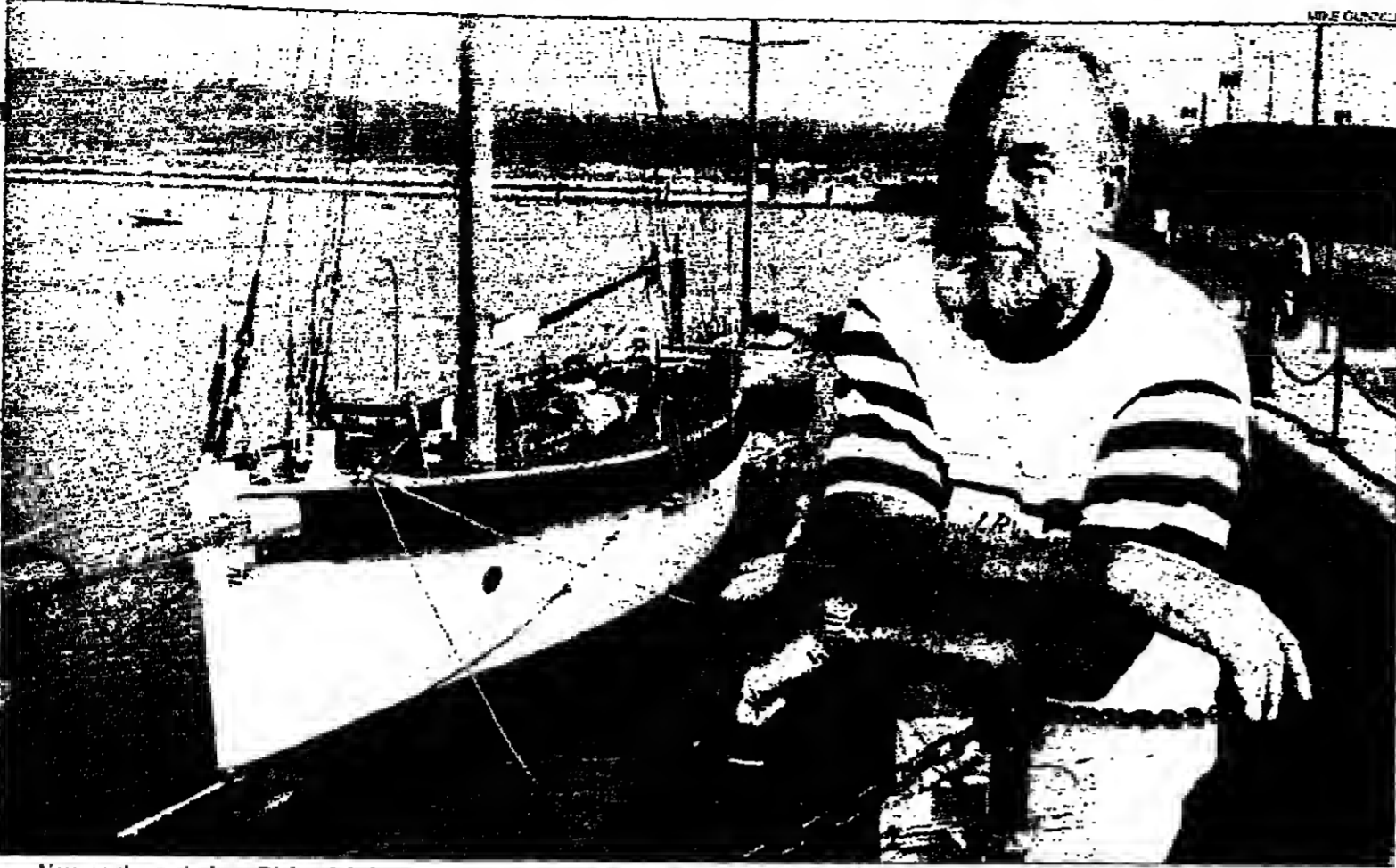
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Voyage through time: Richard Grimble with the yacht he has painstakingly restored after dragging it from the mud 21 years ago, below

How a Victorian beauty rose from a muddy grave

By Robin Young

A BOAT enthusiast who, 21 years ago, dug out a derelict Victorian yacht from the mud of an Essex estuary with his bare hands has been told that the vessel could now be worth more than £1 million.

Richard Grimble, 58, bought the crumbling remains of the Victorian yacht *Sorceress* for £1,000 in 1975 and has spent much of his time since rebuilding and refitting her in every detail.

Sorceress began life as a gentleman's yacht in 1878 and during the following half century had 15 owners, all wealthy and mostly titled. She appeared at Cowes and Edward VII and the future George V are believed to have been among those who were entertained on board.

But after *Sorceress* was acquired by the Earl of Mac-

clesfield her golden days faded. The earl used the boat infrequently and eventually decided to retire her to a mud berth on the Colne estuary at Wivenhoe, where she remained, sinking into the mire, from 1925 until 1975.

Mr Grimble, a violin restorer from Rainham in Kent, found the yacht through an advertisement in *Exchange & Mart*. He said yesterday: "I had been looking for a boat for a long time. This was a bit bigger than I wanted, but it was beautiful and at £1,000 cheap compared to others I had looked at."

"We waded out waist-high in mud to dig the boat out with our bare hands. The locals thought it pretty amusing, but they grew quite fond of us when they saw the effort we put in."

A channel to the river was dug out and, eventually, at one high tide, *Sorceress* slipped clear. Her deck and hull were largely unaffected by long burial in the salties but everything inside had rotted away. The boat was taken to Mr Grimble's workshop, where he brought to its restoration the meticulous attention to detail that he applies to his work on musical instruments.

Yalags and veneers have been restored to Victorian design, and metalwork on longer in production has been commissioned from specialists or made by Mr Grimble himself. He has

restored every detail of the interior to its Victorian design, installing subtle lighting, plumped furnishings and a genuine Victorian hipbath.

The result is a vessel with all the sumptuous grace and elegance of the kind of yacht that thrilled marine artists at the turn of the century. The restored *Sorceress* is now among the most authentic aristocratic yachts of her vintage still afloat. Her present value is therefore a matter of some speculation. It is also, Mr Grimble insists, of academic interest only, because the yacht is not for sale.

"It has been a labour of love," he said. "The amount the boat is worth is irrelevant. Insurers tell me it is worth £1.5 million to £2 million, but that is not what I am thinking about. I love our heritage and what I wanted to do was to restore something of great beauty and maintain it."

He added: "We cannot even go sailing in the yacht yet. We still need another £2,000 for the sails."

A yacht surveyor, Bob Forsyth of Southampton, said: "I would estimate that as a yacht in itself *Sorceress* could fetch anything from £500,000 to £1 million, but Richard has done so much work on the interior that it could fetch a lot more at auction." The yacht is now on display at Chatham Historic Dockyard, Kent.

Sailing 'widow', page 47

Bar committee decision 'perverse'

Defeated professor attacks rival chosen to train barristers

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

TWO prominent law professors who were bidding to run the training course for barristers have come to verbal blows in the wake of the Bar's decision in July to end its monopoly on training.

The Bar decided to approve universities to run the one-year vocational course that had been provided by the Inns of Court School of Law. Six institutions, as well as the Inns of Court, won approval to offer training, an essential stepping stone to the profession.

The College of Law, the leading provider of training for solicitors, was successful but the joint bid by Oxford University and Oxford Brookes was rejected. Professor Peter Birks, Regius Professor of Civil Law at All Souls, Oxford, who was behind Oxford's failed bid, has published an extraordinary attack on the decision to approve the College of Law, headed by Professor Nigel Savage.

In an unsigned editorial in the newsletter of the Society of Public Teachers of Law, Professor Birks says the College of Law — one of the biggest providers of training for solicitors — has no research expertise. The institution "Mr Savage now leads would

achieve a zero-rating", he says. In spite of having no research responsibilities, it would retain a "near monopoly" of legal training.

Professor Birks said yesterday: "I can't imagine a more perverse, inexplicable decision." He said that he had no wish to make a personal attack on Professor Savage, who has risen rapidly to become one of the most powerful voices in legal education.

He said it was the Bar decision, taken by a committee under Sir David Calcutt, QC, that he was concerned about. It was "the most extraordinary decision I have known in my whole life".

Professor Birks said he had spent eight years trying to get the research-based universities into the second stage of training lawyers. A few universities now offered the solicitors' training course but the Bar decision to devolve barristers' training had "presented a golden opportunity to say 'we need research-based training', and they refused it".

years. This was very much Professor Birks's dream and it has failed to become a reality."

To attack the college for lack of research was misplaced because it was not its core activity. "But that is precisely why Oxford is struggling and why they got a zero from the Bar Council — vocational education is not their core activity." If Oxford's course was so excellent, it would have been approved, he said.

He also questioned the wisdom, from the taxpayer's point of view, of Oxford devoting resources to vocational training when it was a world leader in research and undergraduate teaching. The money might have been better spent on research on litigation, civil evidence and other practice-related subjects, he said.

The institutions running the course, apart from the Inns of Court School of Law, are the College of Law, based in London, York, Guildford and Chester; Nottingham Law School (Professor Savage's former institution); BPP Law School, in London; Cardiff Law School; the University of Northumbria and the University of the West of England.

Law, pages 39, 41



Edward VII was among guests on the *Sorceress*



Richard Grimble on the yacht he has restored

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl's letter led to jail for teacher

A Sunday-school teacher who was exposed as a child abuser by a nine-year-old girl's letter to a teenage magazine's agony aunt was jailed yesterday for 12 months. Stephen Williams, 34, was found guilty of three specimen counts of indecency on one girl and another count of indecency on another girl at Bolton Crown Court last month. The unposted letter was found by her brother.

Pollution fine

South West Water was fined £1,000 after admitting polluting a Cornish river with sewage. The company blamed salt water in the system and said it would spend £3 million to prevent recurrence.

Firework blast

The owner of a garden centre fled for his life as his firework stock exploded. John Pearson spotted an office blaze spreading to the store at the Bursdon rose and garden centre, Chiswell Green, St Albans.

Protest punch

Edward Gilder, 50, a livestock transport boss whose firm has been the target of animal-rights protests, was bound over by Cheltenham magistrates for punching a TV cameraman in the face.

Sangster sale

The horseracing businessman Robert Sangster has sold his home on the Isle of Man for £2.5 million. The property, on the outskirts of Douglas, was put on the market four years ago for £6 million.

Brother in mercy killing escapes prison sentence

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who killed his brother to end his suffering from a degenerative illness walked free from court yesterday.

The case, involving the first known mercy killing to come before the Scottish courts, was described as "exceptional" by the judge. Lord Macfadyen said he had considered a custodial sentence to make it plain to others that taking a life was unlawful, but there had been powerful mitigating factors.

Paul Brady, 37, who killed his brother James, 40, at his request on Boxing Day last year, was appearing for sentence in the High Court in Glasgow. He had originally been charged with murder but, three weeks ago, the Crown accepted a plea of guilty to the lesser charge of culpable homicide.

The family suffers from the hereditary disease, Huntington's chorea. Brady's grandfather and mother died from it, and in 1985 his brother was diagnosed as suffering from it. The court had been told that James Brady had pleaded with his sister Margaret to end his misery, but she had refused. He was allowed out of his nursing home in Glasgow to her house in the city for Christmas and, while he was being bathed, had asked his brother to kill him.

On Boxing Day, Brady, of Skelmanthorpe, west Yorkshire, had given his brother some alcohol and an overdose of his medicine. When he returned to the room and heard him breathing, he had put a pillow on his face.



Brady: he acted out of compassion for brother

Lord Macfadyen said he was satisfied that Brady had acted out of compassion rather than malice. "You brought your brother's life to an end at his own earnest and prolonged heartfelt request," he said. By the time of his death, James Brady had been reduced by a "dreadful disease" to a state of debility.

The judge went on to express hesitation about the message a lenient sentence might give, saying his duty was not only to have regard to the circumstances of the crime but to public interest. "Whatever the motivation may have been and however mitigating the circumstances, the deliberate taking of a life of another remains a serious crime."

He said he had considered whether a custodial sentence was necessary to "make it plain" to others that taking the life of another person, even in the circumstances of this case, was unlawful. "With some considerable hesitation, I have come to the conclusion that the culpability of your conduct is sufficiently marked by the fact you have been convicted on your own confession of a serious crime of culpable homicide," the judge said. He admonished Brady.

As he left the court, Brady was hugged by his tearful family, who had supported his actions and appeared on television to argue his case. He said: "I am too emotional to speak. I am just relieved for myself and the whole family."

Gallery says funding system threatens loss of contemporary works Arts bodies refuse grants to buy new Freud

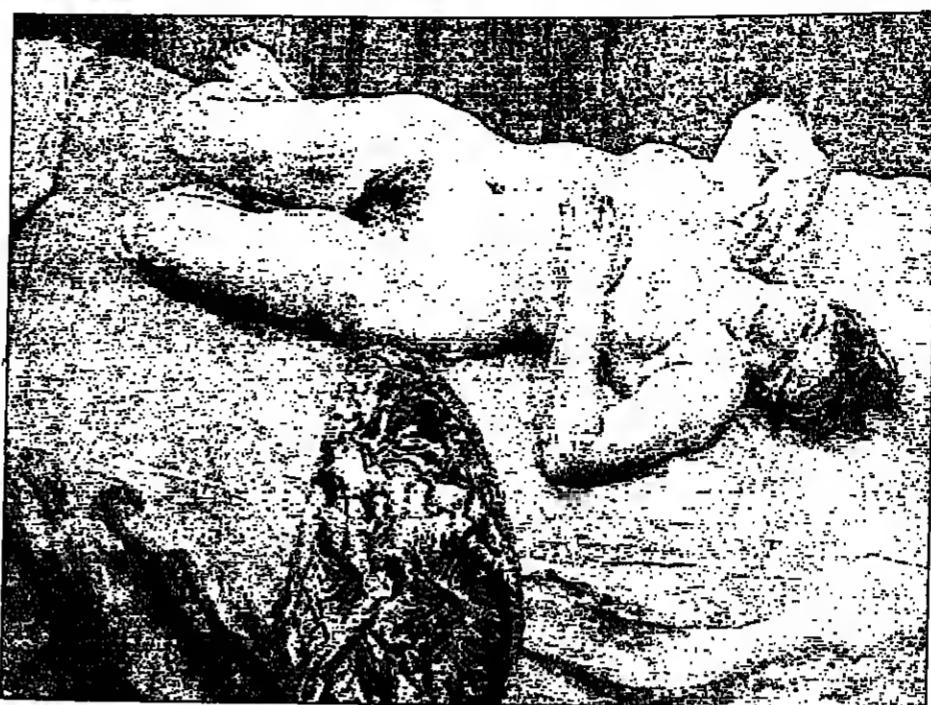
BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A PORTRAIT of a nude girl was last night claimed to have exposed a major flaw in arts funding, leaving public galleries with little chance to buy contemporary masterpieces for Britain.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has turned down an application for help in buying Lucian Freud's new work, *Portrait on Grey Cover*, because it is less than 20 years old. The Arts Council rejected the appeal because the painting was not commissioned. Each funding body recommended the other.

Yesterday Edward King, director of the Abbot Hall Art Gallery and Museum in Kendal, Cumbria, which made the application, said: "We have been going backwards and forwards between the two for the last six weeks. Each says it is the responsibility of the other."

The gallery attracted 26,000 people to its Lucian Freud exhibition this summer. Mr King described the £780,000 nude, finished in



Lucian Freud's new *Portrait on Grey Cover*: no lottery cash for 20 years

August this year, as "a wonderful work - it is one of the most beautiful and tender of all his paintings".

The director said that without lottery support, it would

be almost impossible for any public gallery in Britain to buy such paintings.

Portrait on Grey Cover measures 55 in by 68 in. It is currently in America for an

exhibition at the Acquavella, the gallery of Lucian Freud's dealer in New York. The dealer is donating £150,000 to the museum's appeal, and has also extended the six-

week reserve on it by a fortnight, despite having a queue of collectors clamouring to buy it.

The National Art Collections Fund, Britain's largest art charity, has once again reacted with speed to a museum's appeal: it offered a £75,000 grant towards the purchase price.

David Barrie, the charity's director, said: "It would be absurd if Abbot Hall were denied the opportunity to purchase this outstanding new work by Freud because of a bureaucratic anomaly in the Lottery-funding system. Let's hope that the funding bodies can work out a solution as time is running out fast. This case raises an extremely important issue: can masterpieces created in the last 20 years be acquired for permanent collections with lottery help? If not, the system needs to be changed."

Spokeswomen from both the Arts Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund each said their hands were tied by the rules governing the grants that they can make.

Visual arts, page 37

Wallace will not face a retrial

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE former army information officer Colin Wallace, whose conviction for manslaughter was quashed last week, was told yesterday that he would not face a retrial.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, said in the Court of Appeal that the interests of justice would not be served if Mr Wallace, who served six years of a ten-year sentence, was put before a jury again. The court ruled last week that his conviction for the manslaughter of Jonathan Lewis, an antiques dealer, in 1980 was unsafe.

Lawyers for Mr Wallace, who claims to have been an SAS officer, said after the hearing that they would pursue the question of compensation for the years their client spent in prison. Mr Wallace, 53, claimed that he was the victim of an M15 dirty-tricks campaign to stop him making allegations about covert security service operations in Northern Ireland.

The Crown Prosecution Service had pressed for a retrial, saying the question of who killed Mr Lewis remained unresolved and a rehearing would give Mr Wallace what he had recently demanded - a full inquiry into the case.

Weather is star of new BBC show

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

THE BBC began a series yesterday devoted to the nation's favourite topic of conversation: the thrice-weekly *Weather Show* is hosted by Bill Giles and Suzanne Charlton.

Experts will analyse phenomena such as thunderstorms, hurricanes and heatwaves. There will also be features on the lighter side of weather reporting.

Yesterday the loochtime show, which lasts ten minutes, announced it would be following Sir Ranulph Fiennes on his Antarctic expedition. If the show is well received, it might become a daily fixture and be lengthened to half an hour.

Last month the corporation opened its new weather centre, enabling more accurate and faster forecasts to be put out. *The Weather Show* will provide competition for BSkyB's Weather Channel, which began this month.

Bill Giles said that *The Weather Show* would be topical. "If there is an important weather story developing anywhere in the world we will cover it."

Forecast, page 26
TV listings, page 51

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Doctors accuse immigration officials of discrimination as retirement plans collapse

Australia bars diabetic as burden on the state

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH citizen has been refused permission to emigrate with his family to Australia because he might impose too heavy a burden on the country's health system.

Richard Nitze, 49, a chartered engineer who is married to an Australian, is a diabetic in general good health. He is comfortably well off. The Australian High Commission in London has refused to let him emigrate because it says that his condition could deteriorate.

Mr Nitze, of Wickham Market, Suffolk, who works for Eastern Electricity and is a newly appointed magistrate, planned to take early retirement and move to Australia in the new year so that his wife, Bronwyn, could care for her elderly parents who live there.

Mr Nitze's report they sent it to a doctor in Australia who said that Mr Nitze's condition could lead to problems in the future.



Richard Nitze with his wife Bronwyn, who wants to care for her elderly parents, and their 16-year-old daughter Stefanie. Mother and daughter are Australians

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crash kills death car driver on way to trial

A French driver, due to stand trial at Dornoch, Highland, yesterday for causing the death of another motorist in November by driving on the right-hand side of the road, was himself killed in a crash on his way to the court.

Babies buried Mandy Allwood's eight still-born babies, each in a tiny coffin, were buried at the cemetery in West Norwood, south London, after a funeral service attended by Ms Allwood, 32, her partner Paul Hudson, 37, and a handful of friends and relatives.

Safer beach

Lynette Thornton, whose children Tom and Jodi drowned in August at Holme next the Sea, Norfolk, welcomed moves to improve safety at the beach. Emergency telephones and tide warning signs are to be put up by the parish council.

Coach ban

A coach driver who took children on a trip to the seaside while almost twice over the drink limit was banned from driving for three years by magistrates at Preston. Colin Murphy, 28, from Liverpool, who was stopped on the M6, was fined £750.

Dial-a-detective

Durham police are to investigate some minor crimes by telephone after a successful four-month pioneering experiment in Darlington. The scheme is seen as a time-saving measure that will free officers to concentrate on more serious crimes.

Gym judge jailed

An international gymnastics judge who stole £34,000 from the East Midlands Gymnastics Association while serving as its treasurer was jailed for 18 months. Howard Gibbs, 51, of Stamford, admitted three sample charges of theft at Lincoln Crown Court.

Austen popular

Record numbers of tourists are visiting the home of Jane Austen after the success of film and television adaptations of Sense and Sensibility and Pride and Prejudice. The house in Chawton, Hampshire, has attracted more than 50,000 visitors so far this year.

Mastermind title goes to vicar

MASTERMIND has been won by a vicar for the first time in its 24-year history. The Rev Dr Richard Sturch, 60, took the title yesterday with a specialist subject of the operas of Gilbert and Sullivan and a total score of 32 points.

Dr Sturch, from Islip in Oxfordshire, said he had entered because "I wanted to show that the clergy really are quite bright after all".

Dr Sturch, from Islip in Oxfordshire, beat Richard Heller from Loozon and Gwen Kingsley from Kingswinnor, West Midlands, who drew with 30 points each, and Elsie Sadek, from Blackpool, with 27.



Rev Sturch: 32 points

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Central storage of weapons 'would present criminals with remote Santa's grottoes to raid at will'

Home Office balks at turning gun clubs into arsenals

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT, AND BILL FROST

THEFTS of firearms could increase if handgun owners are forced to keep their weapons at gun clubs rather than in their homes, according to evidence given to the Dunblane inquiry by the Home Office. The clubs, meanwhile, fear such a move would turn them into targets for terrorists and a former police superintendent said it would be "astonishingly stupid".

Home Office officials submitted 35 potential changes to gun laws to Lord Cullen's inquiry into the school massacre. Apart from the central storage requirement, they included banning the possession and use of all guns, banning ownership of more than one handgun and banning handguns above .22 calibre. Other options included giving police wider discretion to refuse fire-

arms certificates: increasing the number of counter-signatories for certificates and requiring all applications to be countersigned by a doctor.

The doubts about central storage of firearms and ammunition could cause serious difficulties in Parliament if ministers push ahead with a ban on the possession of handguns in private homes. The Home Office warned that concentrating all legally owned guns and ammunition in a limited number of locations would have serious security implications.

Its submission said: "Shooting clubs are often in relatively remote locations. They could well become more attractive targets for theft if it became known that members had to store their guns and ammunition there. Clubs might then

be required to upgrade their security measures, at expense, but the net result could still be an increase in thefts of firearms."

The gun clubs fear that, despite these misgivings, the Government will require them to provide safe storage for handguns. They claimed the move would turn clubs into a "Santa's grotto" for criminals and terrorists in search of arms and ammunition. Security precautions required to give teeth to any proposed legislation would drive many clubs out of business and could never prove foolproof.

Andrew Barnard, one of the few gun club owners already offering members secure storage for weapons, said he could make a fortune should the proposal ever become law. However, he warned that the



Handguns stored at the Wiltshire Shooting Centre. Former members include Michael Ryan, responsible for the Hungerford massacre

move would "do nothing to avert another Dunblane".

Mr Barnard should know. Among former members at his Wiltshire Shooting Centre in Devizes was Michael Ryan, the Hungerford gun "enthusiast" who killed 16 people and wounded 14 others nine years ago. "To make gun clubs into arsenals would be an act of folly," Mr Barnard said last

night. "No matter what security measures you call for, unless there is a great deal of money spent, it is only a question of time before you are turned over."

There are estimated to be about 200,500 legally held handguns in the United Kingdom, of which around 190,000 are revolvers or automatic pistols, the remainder being

single-shot pistols used for target shooting. Many of Britain's 2,118 approved gun clubs — 247 are in Scotland — are in remote locations.

Ian McConchie, general secretary of the National Pistol Association, agreed that clubs in isolated areas "stand no chance" against determined thieves. "Even the best protected clubs get raided. It doesn't

matter what precautions you go for. We have had two recent examples where raiders bulldozed down wire fences and brick walls."

Colin Greenwood, editor of *Guns Review*, was a superintendent with West Yorkshire Police in charge of firearms training. He refuses to believe that any government could be "so mad" as to introduce a law

compelling shooters to give their weapons over in gun clubs for safe keeping. "You are just creating safe and easy targets for terrorists and other violent criminals."

"It would be astonishingly stupid to introduce such a change and it would fly in the face of all the advice offered by senior police officers and the Home Office."

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Forsyth 'would fend off poll challenge'

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

MICHAEL FORSYTH yesterday dismissed the threat from campaigners for gun control to put up a candidate against him in the approaching general election.

The Scottish Secretary's Stirling constituency, which includes Dunblane, has the second smallest Conservative majority in Scotland. Mr Forsyth said he would not be pushed into arguing for a ban on handguns. "It is my job to discuss things with colleagues and then put them to Parliament. I am not going to be pressurised."

Supporters of Mr Forsyth in his constituency expressed confidence that they could fend off any challenge from the Snowdrop Petition, which this weekend threatened to put up Ann Pearson against him if the Government failed to legislate for a complete handgun ban.

At the same time, a group of Dunblane parents who lost children in the massacre called on Mr Forsyth to back an all-out ban or resign because he could not claim to be representing his constituents. Yesterday Ritchie Robertson, chairman of the local Conservatives, said the parents' stance was "grossly unfair" and that Mr Forsyth was right not to pre-empt the Cullen report on the matter, which will be published tomorrow. "Michael Forsyth is an extremely devoted, hard worker

in this constituency and people are starting to make judgments before he has had time to read the Cullen report." Mr Robertson said.

The petition was originally set up by Scottish parents who felt compelled to "do something" after the Dunblane massacre. Initially their aims and tactics were simple. They collected 700,000 signatures and presented them to Parliament in the hope popular pressure would force change.

But the campaign, named after the only flower in bloom on March 13, the date of the Dunblane massacre, has developed into a powerful mouthpiece for parents of Thomas Hamilton's victims and for anti-gun sympathisers across the country.

Mrs Pearson, 40, the mother of three who has emerged as the campaign's figurehead, has, simply by asking whether protecting children or protecting people's right to shoot is more important, made politicians take notice. She addressed the Labour conference this month and reduced many delegates to tears.

Mrs Pearson, who used to live in Dunblane, said yesterday that standing for election would be just one option in a continuing campaign. She admitted that her preference would be to persuade the Labour Party to commit itself to banning handguns.



Ann Pearson, the gun control campaigner, has said she might stand for election against Michael Forsyth

Both parties face election threat

By PETER RIDDELL

THE Scottish Secretary should be concerned by the threat of campaigners for gun control to put up a candidate against him in Stirling if the Government fails to introduce a total ban on hand guns.

Michael Forsyth is vulnerable not just because of his small majority of 703 over Labour (or a nominal 236 after taking account of boundary changes) but also because the strong local feelings aroused by the Dunblane massacre are about the only circumstances when a single-issue candidate might attract many votes. However, Labour as well as the Tories could be affected.

Most single-issue candidates have not done well in general elections, when the attention is on the main parties. The most striking parallel is Nelson and Colne in 1966, where Sydney Silverman, the sitting Labour MP, faced strong opposition after he had successfully sponsored the Private Member's Bill that led to the abolition of capital punishment in 1965. An independent

standing as an anti-abolitionist probably took nearly as many votes from the Tory candidate as from Mr Silverman, whose majority increased nearly in line with the national trend.

If an anti-guns candidate stood in Stirling, he or she could draw votes from both Tory and Labour. But Mr Forsyth cannot afford any differential swing against him rather than Labour.

Among other single-issue candidates, the writer Richard Adams won 2,816 votes, 5.5 per cent, fighting the late Humphrey Atkins on an anti-hunting ticket in Spelthorne in the 1983 general election.

Anti-Brussels candidates have stood ever since Britain first applied to join the Common Market in the early 1960s — particularly against Edward Heath, who was in charge of the first negotiations and led Britain into membership. The mid-term successes of anti-Brussels groups have not been repeated in general elections.

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Blair sells Labour as new champion of family values

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

TONY BLAIR spoke yesterday of his hopes of creating a "decent society" based on traditional family values and strong communities.

He used a speech in Cape Town to declare that a Labour government would try to unite a prosperous Britain around a new social morality. He said that otherwise it would be difficult to sustain economic progress.

The Labour leader rejected claims that he was promoting neo-Conservative ideas, describing his aims as a "radical centre-left" agenda that his transformed party was well placed to pursue.

"I have no desire to return to the age of Victorian hypocrisy about sex, to women's place being only in the kitchen, to homophobia or to preaching to people about their private lives as the ill-fated back to basics campaign of the Conservatives attempted to do."

"But the absence of prejudice should not mean the absence of rules, of order, of stability. Let us construct them for today. Let the social morality be based on reason — not bigotry. But let us not delude

ourselves that we can build a society fit for our children to grow up in without making a moral judgment about the nature of that society."

He added: "This isn't a kiltjog philosophy. This is enlightened self-interest. In a society in which opportunity is extended, we have greater security, our streets are safer, our young people more motivated, our ambitions better fulfilled. This is a society that is invigorating, exciting, good to live in."

Mr Blair, addressing the Commonwealth press union, spoke of his belief that encouraging greater parental responsibility would ease the burden on the welfare state caused by social decay. "Most of the children who are bad are made bad, not born bad," he said. "And we, their parents and the society we create, are what make them."

On the need for stronger communities, he said: "The language of getting has replaced the language of giving. Do-gooding has become a term of abuse as if to help others is somehow a weakness when in truth it is a strength.

We are growing immune to wrong-doing. As a society we have lost our capacity to be outraged when our elderly are treated with disrespect, or our young neglected."

He emphasised the need for parental responsibility, particularly in helping children with their education. He saw no reason for young children to be out on their own late at night. "We are examining measures to tackle this. Some have called it curfew. I call it child protection."

Nothing angered him more than accusations that he was raising an "illiberal agenda" for the nanny state. "It is about understanding that liberty is not just an exercise in a moral vacuum and we do not live just as individuals, but as part of society."

He told *The Times* that his party's ideas about social contracts would be expanded upon months ahead and said it was a mark of how "skewed" the political debate had become that by raising such issues he could be accused of adopting a right-wing agenda. He denied that he was stealing Tory baggage, insisting that



Tony Blair saying goodbye to a child he met at the Nazareth House Aids orphanage in Cape Town

he was re-emphasising traditional Labour values of self-improvement that had been expounded by Keir Hardie and Clement Attlee.

"I think this is something that is so important for people to understand as part of new Labour. It's actually about going back to our roots and representing the concerns of

these people. If you've got the money you can buy yourself out of these social problems, if you don't you're stuck there."

The idea of a new social morality was something traditional Labour supporters were "crying out" for. The Left had long been reluctant to satisfy that demand for fear of being accused of trying to switch

back the clock. "Actually you don't have to say that. You can construct a different social and moral code for today's world that takes account of changes that are good, like the liberation of women."

Referring to John Major's "new Labour, old-school tie" gibe last week about his public school education, Mr Blair

said: "It's not where you come from that's important for the country. It is what you are and what you're going to do for the country. That's what the election should be about. I don't have much time either for snobbery or for inverted snobbery."

Leading article, page 21

Tories deny selling access to minister

By James Landale, Political Reporter

LABOUR accused the Tories yesterday of soliciting £500 from businessmen and tourism chiefs in return for granting access to Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary.

In what has been called the "cash for crissans" affair, Jack Cunningham, the Shadow National Heritage Secretary, told the Commons that a breakfast meeting held last week broke the Prime Minister's pledge in July that "no one can buy access to ministers" over a breakfast.

Mrs Bottomley rejected the claims, saying that the breakfast was open to anyone who could pay the £7.50 cover charge.

The allegation was based on a letter from Simon Coombs, Tory MP for Swindon, inviting tourism leaders to the breakfast at Bournemouth hotel during the Tory conference. Under the auspices of a group called Tories for Tourism, he asked for businessmen to sponsor the breakfast. "For £500, you would be able to discuss issues of concern to you informally over breakfast with Virginia Bottomley and members of her National Heritage team..."

Mr Cunningham asked Mrs Bottomley if this was "proper or doesn't it just make the statement the Prime Minister made to this House in July absolute rubbish?"

Mrs Bottomley replied: "Anybody who thought the only way to speak to me was to pay £500 would waste a great deal of money. I am available at virtually every major tourism event that takes place and I am only too happy to hear directly from people what their concerns are."

Tory sources said that of the 50 people who attended the event, 49 paid £7.50 and only one paid £500 to sponsor it. The sponsor had no greater access to Mrs Bottomley than did any other guest. The cash receipts, none of which went to the party, merely covered the cost of the breakfast.

Why the Hamilton affair calls for an unfettered inquiry

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Tory party managers suffered a serious setback yesterday in their attempt to limit the scope of parliamentary inquiries into the Neil Hamilton affair — and quite right too. The Tories are correct that British public life is not particularly corrupt, or "steamy", by international standards, but that is precisely why there now needs to be the fullest possible investigation. The Tories do themselves no favours by crying foul. They are misreading the public mood, as rightly interpreted yesterday by the Speaker. By the spirit, as much as the substance of her statement, she reinforced demands for a full inquiry.

Yesterday was a time for reality after two weeks of shadow boxing

since the collapse of the libel case against *The Guardian*. Labour and the Liberal Democrats had originally gone off on the wrong track in demanding a formal judicial inquiry. John Major was right to reject this call. Leaving aside the legal objections raised yesterday by Downing Street officials, such a tribunal could easily have taken a year or more.

It would also have been wrong for issues to do with Parliament and the conduct of MPs not to be investigated by the House's streamlined disciplinary machinery. The post-Nolan framework of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and the Standards and Privileges Committee was set up last year to

deal with the shortcomings of the old disciplinary arrangements. This new system should be given the chance to prove itself, as Labour and the Liberal Democrats now accept.

Worries that Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner, would have insufficient resources and powers were always ill-founded. As the Speaker made clear, "all necessary steps" will be taken to ensure that the commissioner and the committee are "adequately staffed", while if they need additional powers, "no doubt the House will be invited to decide whether they

should be granted". In the current political climate, it would anyway have been impossible to suppress an inquiry and Mr Major has repeatedly said he will make available all relevant papers.

The real issue is the scope of the investigation. Tory party managers had been hoping to limit the inquiry to the original allegations by Mohammed Al Fayed against Mr Hamilton and related matters not considered by the old Members' Interests Committee because of the libel case. But much wider allegations have now been raised over Mr Hamilton's acceptance of payments from Ian Greer. As Donald Dewar and Archy Kirkwood, the Labour and Liberal Democrat Chief Whips,

argued yesterday in a joint statement, these matters should also be considered by Sir Gordon and the committee. The Speaker was careful not to say what the committee should examine. Her concern was more that the committee should rapidly inform the House about the full nature and scope of any investigations which it undertakes."

The Willetts memorandum — the note written by David Willetts, the Paymaster General, when he was a whip two years ago about the members' interests inquiry — is entirely separate and does not come within Sir Gordon's current remit. The report of the Select Committee on Standards in Public Life in July 1995 that set out the powers of the

commissioner made clear that this type of privilege issue should be dealt with in the traditional way. The Speaker acts as an initial filter for complaints which are then referred by the House to the committee. Any suggestion that Sir Gordon should take on such privilege issues would make him even more of a judicial investigator.

It is in everybody's interests — Parliament's, the Tories, even the now beleaguered and tawdry Mr Hamilton — that nothing is suppressed. It is the only way to deal with wilder allegations about sleaze and to rebuild confidence in Parliament.

PETER RIDDELL

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Rising costs may drive 'Le Trib' to abandon France

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE *International Herald Tribune*, the American newspaper first published in Paris more than 100 years ago, may soon move to the United States, driven out by the high costs of doing business in France.

The newspaper, jointly owned by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, has commissioned a study to explore the costs of moving its operations to America, executives said.

"It is no secret that France is an enormously costly place to produce anything," Michael Getler, executive editor of the *Herald Tribune*, said. He added that relocating to the United States would represent a significant saving. The *Herald Tribune* employs some 250 staff at its offices in Neuilly-sur-Seine, and the newspaper would retain a "substantial" presence in France whatever the study's findings, Mr Getler said.

Editorial and business operations are among those that may be moved from France, but Mr Getler stressed that no decision had been made on which, if any, parts of the paper might be relocated. Journalists on the *Herald Tribune* are paid American salaries, which are higher than French ones, but also enjoy French holidays which are considerably longer than



those usually allowed in the United States. "The technology that enables us to print in a dozen countries around the world will be sufficient to co-ordinate functions between the sizeable element that would certainly remain in France and other elements if they moved to New York or Washington or somewhere else," Mr Getler said. "The *Herald Tribune* has 'full page make-up' technology that enables pages to be made up on computer screen. But a spokesman at the newspaper said that this is



Jean Seberg as she was seen in *Breathless*

only used on a few pages a day, due to union rules. Production staff has been cut from 30 to ten people over the last year, the spokesman said.

The 50 Paris-based journalists at the *Herald Tribune* belong to an in-house union, and some are also members of the French journalists' union.

"If a move came to pass, we would obviously take labour concerns into account," Mr Getler said, adding that it was unlikely French staff would be asked to move to America.

If the *Trib* does relocate, it will follow numerous companies unable or unwilling to shoulder the huge cost of French government charges for staff healthcare, social security, pensions and insurance.

The *Herald Tribune* is facing increased competition from international dailies such as *The Wall Street Journal* and the *Financial Times*, as well as from *The Times* and other British newspapers which are now printed and distributed on the continent.

"I don't want [the move], but I will do whatever is good for the profitability of the enterprise," Richard McLean, the newspaper's publisher, said. "I would be very sad if I had to leave France. The newspaper started here. This is its home."

The *Paris Herald* was born on October 4, 1887, when James Gordon Bennett Jr founded a European edition of the highly successful *New York Herald*. After merging with the *New York Tribune*, the American-based newspaper closed down in 1966, but the Paris edition continued under its current title.

Over the years, the newspaper attained something of a cult status in France and a copy of *Le Trib* under one arm remains a badge of cosmopolitan chic. In the 1959 film *Breathless*, Jean Seberg wore a *New York Herald Tribune* T-shirt, which has since been adapted into a line of women's clothing.



Relatives watch the exhumation yesterday of the bodies of Bosnian Muslims killed near Sarajevo in 1992. Vehicle tyres were used to set the bodies ablaze

Vow by Bosnia prosecutor to pursue rapists

FROM SAM KILEY IN ARUSHA

LOUISE ARBOUR, chief prosecutor in the Rwandan and Yugoslav international war crimes tribunals, veers between deep distaste and blushing enthusiasm for her role as the world's sword of judicial vengeance against its war criminals.

But, as she said in an interview in Arusha, Tanzania, where Rwanda's alleged perpetrators of genocide — accused of plotting the mass killing of a million Hutu moderates and Tutsis — will be tried this month, she is determined to add the crime of mass rape to their charge sheets.

Stung by criticism from human rights groups, which accused the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda of ignoring mass rape, the organised sexual mutilation of Tutsi women and the deliberate impregnation of mass groups of them by Hutus, Justice Arbour pledged that the perpetrators of such atrocities would be hunted down.

Part of the explanation for the slow response to calls for prosecutions for rape has been that the Yugoslav and Rwandan tribunals are making up international law on the hoof. The only case law they have to go on has come from the Nuremberg prosecutions of Nazi leaders 50 years ago.

"Rape was not part of the fabric of jurisprudence at the Nuremberg trials, the only area of case law for us in the realm of 'crimes against hu-

manity'. But we have indicted people for rape in Yugoslavia and we are investigating sexual violence in the Rwandan context, and will continue to do so. I have written to 50 NGOs [non-governmental organisations] asking for their help and we hope they will really give a boost to our efforts," Justice Arbour said.

Nobody knows how many women were raped during the mass slaughter in Rwanda in 1994. But at least 5,000 unwanted "children of hate" have been left behind, abandoned by their mothers.

Justice Arbour, 49, a former criminal justice don, Ontario Supreme Court judge and vice-president of the Civil Liberties Association of Canada, presides with precision over the most informal chat. The smallest slip of the tongue or inaccuracy of terminology is instantly corrected.

"I do not represent the tribunals. I represent the prosecution in the tribunals," she insists.

She was asked whether a prosecution witness could turn "Queen's evidence" and testify against his conspirators in return for immunity. "It would not be Queen's evidence because we're not in a British court," she replied. "And I won't say anyway."

When asked what was the biggest burden she carried, she said "that justice, when it comes, may be too late, and can never heal the wounds of the victims who survived."

Anger as child sex case judge is dismissed

FROM LEYLA LINTON IN BRUSSELS

REVULSION and disgust swept Belgium yesterday after its supreme court decided to remove the judicial investigator from the country's child sex abuse and murder investigations because he accepted a free meal from an organisation that supports the parents of missing children.

More than 600 people outside the Palais de Justice in Brussels greeted the decision to dismiss Jean-Marc Connerotte from the case with howls of protest and chants of "murderers, murderers". The Cour

de Cassation said that a judge must remain impartial at all times. "The decision was made... given that the impartiality of magistrates was a fundamental rule," Oscar Stranard, the court president, told the packed court.

The court upheld complaints by the lawyer for Marc Dutroux, the man suspected of killing four girls and kidnapping two others, that Mr Connerotte had compromised his objectivity by attending a spaghetti supper last month at which two of Dutroux's al-

leged victims were present. Julien Pierre, Dutroux's lawyer, said the court had shown "infinite wisdom".

Paul Marchal, father of An, one of Dutroux's alleged victims, said: "It is the beginning of the end. Justice is dead." The families of Mélissa Russo and Julie Lejeune, who starved to death in a house belonging to Dutroux, were disillusioned with the decision, their lawyer said. He plans to appeal against it.

However, the families of the dead girls and their support-

ers expressed some relief that at least Michel Bourlet, the prosecutor of Neuf Château, would remain on the case, even though he too had attended the supper.

Mr Connerotte and Mr Bourlet had won widespread public support for their aggressive approach to the investigation of the scandal which uncovered police bungling and a connection between the suspect and a local police inspector. More than 280,000 people had signed a petition backing Mr Connerotte.



Connerotte: he had won the public's support

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Far Right advance in poll alarms Austria's partners

FROM ROGER BOYES IN VIENNA

FINAL RESULT
People's Party
Wolfgang Schüssel... 29.6%
Social Democrats
Franz Vranitzky... 29.1%
Freedom Party
Jörg Haider... 27.6%

A DRAMATIC shift to the far right in European elections seemed yesterday to stun Austria's European Union partners and raised fears that the populist Freedom Party may become the moving force in the country's politics.

The Freedom Party won almost 28 per cent of the vote at the weekend elections and could be poised to overtake the two established pro-European governing parties before the general elections scheduled in 1999. Jörg Haider, the party's controversial leader, expressed confidence yesterday that he would be Austria's Chancellor by 2000.

Ten years ago the Freedom Party was little more than a group of malcontents, unhappy about the stagnation of the Austrian grand coalition between the Social Democrats and the conservative People's Party. Although Herr Haider lost the June 1994 referendum on entry into the European Union, the 46-year-old Porsche-driving lawyer has plugged away. Now 62 per cent of Austrians say that European membership brings "overwhelming disadvantages" — an indictment of the ruling coalition which has sent the political class reeling.

The Social Democrats, for decades the dominant force in Austrian politics, have lost two European parliamentary seats and now have only six. They secured 29.2 per cent of the vote, but were overtaken by their conservative partners, who picked up 29.6 per cent.

Nevertheless, it lost a seat in Strasbourg. The right-wing Freedom Party, which had campaigned for a delay in economic and monetary union (EMU), the preservation of the schilling and much slower eastward enlargement of the EU, polled 27.6 per cent of the vote, compared to 21.9 per cent in the general elections ten months ago.

Herr Haider's appeal may well have been his tub-thumping speeches against foreigners — "Vienna, not Istanbul" he yelled to the crowds — as against Brussels. The simultaneous Vienna municipal elections, which levered the Social Democrats out of their time-honoured control of the city, suggested that many Austrians may also have simply wanted a clean broom swept through mainstream politics.

Membership of the EU was the turning point for Herr Haider. Rash promises that food prices would drop, that everyone would be better off to the tune of £100 a week, that tourism would blossom, and jobs would be secure have not been fulfilled. So Herr Haider, who campaigned against EU, is seen as a prophet.

Budget cuts designed to save some £5 billion and bring the public deficit down to 3 per cent of GDP — to meet one of the Maastricht criteria for EMU — have begun to hurt: schools are scrambling for funds, towns are cutting back on libraries and swimming pools. "People have the feeling that the European Union caused the budget cuts, but that is absolutely not right," Helmut Cramer, director of the Austrian Institute for Economic Research, said. "We would have had to do it, Maastricht or not."

The Social Democrats of Franz Vranitzky, the Chancellor, were always regarded as the party that protected jobs. But while some tens of thousands of jobs have been created since EU entry, even more have been lost. The Freedom Party appealed not only to the new jobless but also to the many more who fear unemployment for the first time.

The supporters of EU failed to state their case well. Klaus Liebscher, the Central Bank chief, argues that abandoning the schilling gives Austria more influence. At present, the Austrians more or less follow the line of the German Bundesbank. In a European Central Bank, the Austrians "would be consulted on monetary policy and share in the decision-making". None of the government politicians managed to make this case in the campaign and surrendered the ground to the Freedom Party, which presented itself as the standard-bearer of Austrian independence.

The paradox is that Austria has been successful in milking Brussels. Alpine farmers are complaining — and voting for Herr Haider — about competition, but they have been receiving huge compensation for falling prices from both Brussels and from Vienna.



Jörg Haider, the leader of the far-right Freedom Party, celebrates after his group made substantial gains in the European elections

The question for British Conservatives or other parliamentarians opposed to Maastricht is how far can they make common cause with Herr Haider in Brussels.

For the moment, he is on a roll, and ensuring that racist sentiment — he steadfastly refuses to condemn the Nazi era and has addressed the Waffen SS — is lumped together with opposition to Brussels, EMU and European enlargement. He plays on suspicions of open frontiers: that Hungarians and Slovenes, potential EU members, will destroy

Austrian farmers. Although he exhibits an easy charm, he could be a dangerous ally.

Opinion Poll on Monetary Union:
If the schilling is replaced by the euro in around five years, will Austria have:
Great advantages: 5 per cent

Some advantages: 18 per cent
No change: 22 per cent
Some disadvantages: 34 per cent
Great disadvantages: 11 per cent
Source: Paragon, October 1996

Leading article, page 21



Vranitzky: coalition failed to state case

Anti-Maastricht vote

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

COMMUNIST candidate campaigning against the Maastricht treaty topped the poll in a French by-election at the weekend.

In the first round of a contest to replace the soccer tycoon, Bernard Tapie, as MP for the town of Gardanne,

near Marseilles, the Communist and the extreme-right National Front candidates shared 64 per cent of the vote and face a run-off.

Corruption charge: Robert Hue, head of the French Communist Party, and his predecessor, Georges Marchais, have been charged concerning allegations of illegal political funding. (AFP)

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Of course, you may still believe that you don't need the protection of a SafeGuard plan. That accidents always happen to someone else. If you do, bear in mind that last year 1.7 million workers needed more than six months off work due to long-term injury or illness, and that Norwich Union Healthcare paid out over £18 million in income protection claims. That's rather a lot of someone else's. For more information, call free on 0800 400 123.

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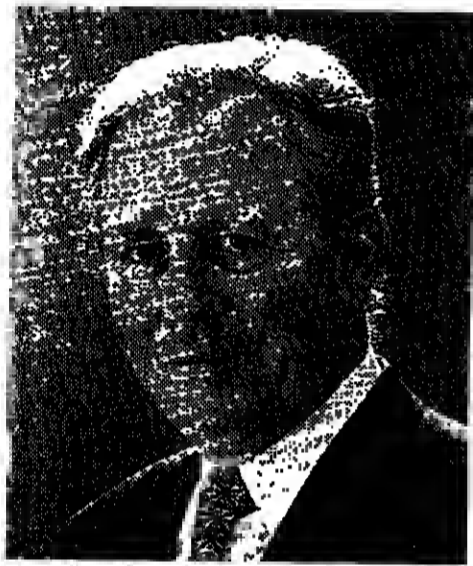
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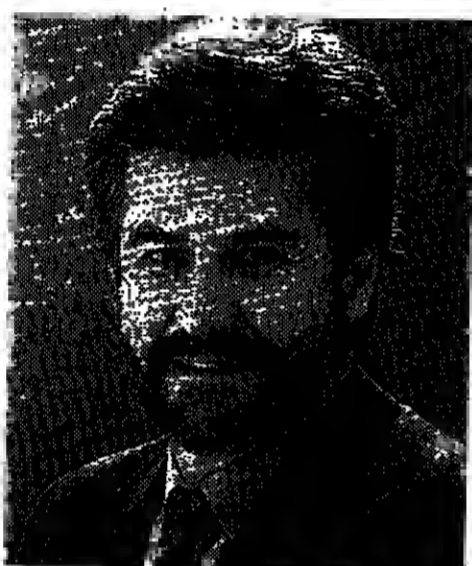
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*Typical example: If you borrow £5,000 over 48 months at 12.9% APR, the monthly repayment is £132.38 and the total amount payable is £6,358.24. The grossly inflated Personal Loan, known as a variable rate loan, is the most expensive. A lower rate of interest is available on request. All loans are subject to credit checks. The maximum loan is £10,000. For your security all loans require an opening in the title deeds. For more information call us on 0800 30 3000. For your security all loans require an opening in the title deeds. For more information call us on 0800 30 3000. For your security all loans require an opening in the title deeds. For more information call us on 0800 30 3000.

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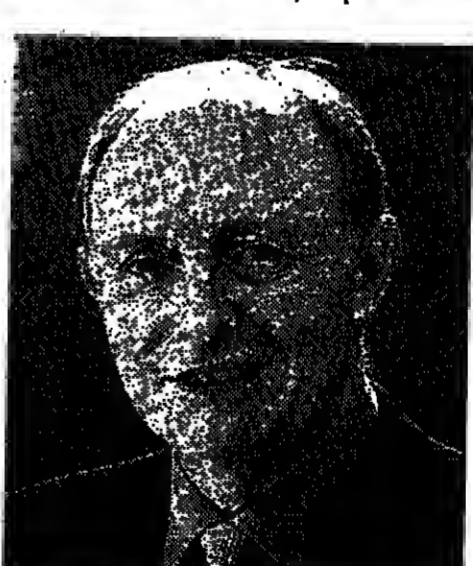
Commissioner Gresson (France)



Commissioner Bjerregaard (Denmark)



Commissioner Wulf-Mathies (Germany)



Commissioner Kinnock (Britain)



Commissioner Monti (Italy)



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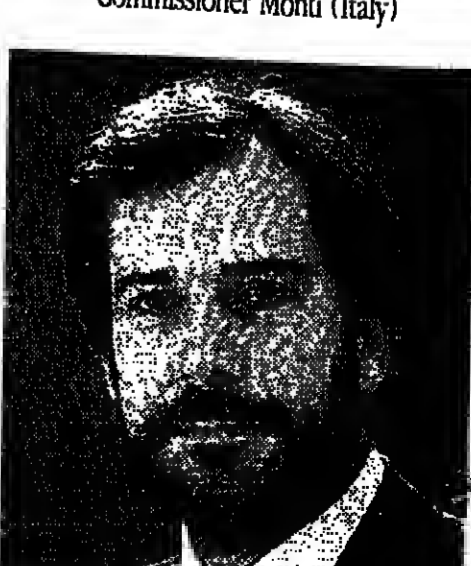
Commissioner Bonino (Italy)



Commissioner Silguy (France)



Commissioner Liikanen (Finland)



Commissioner Papoutsis (Greece)

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15 1996

German shoe chain could reignite Hinchliffe career

By Jason Nisse
STEPHEN HINCHLIFFE, the Sheffield businessman whose collapsed Facia empire is being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office, is using a £50 million German shoe-retailing chain to fund a possible return to the business arena.

The Facia empire, which claimed to be Britain's second-largest privately owned retailer, collapsed in the summer and is now under the control of insolvency practitioners from three accounting firms.

However, Mr Hinchliffe managed to keep Bata Schuhe, the German arm of the empire, out of the hands of the receivers. The operation has 110 stores in Germany and a reported annual turnover of £50 million but recorded losses the last time it filed accounts. Mr Hinchliffe bought the business in March from International Footwear Investments, part of the Bata parent company based in Canada.

Price Waterhouse, the administrators of the shoe side of Facia, is suing Mr Hinchliffe for up to £35 million and has gained a mareva injunction freezing his UK assets. However, Bata Schuhe is not covered by the injunction because it is owned by a company registered outside the UK. The business is being run by Ian Rosenblatt, an associate of Mr Hinchliffe, and he has been asked whether there is any spare money in the business to help Mr Hinchliffe in continuing funding his lifestyle. Keith Oliver, a partner in Peters & Peters, lawyers acting for Mr Hinchliffe, would not comment about the status of Bata Schuhe but said that Mr Hinchliffe would be applying to have the mareva injunction lifted.

Facia is likely to go into liquidation in the next couple of weeks in spite of a dispute between Mr Hinchliffe and KPMG, the receivers of the company and some of its subsidiaries. KPMG has told Mr Hinchliffe and other directors of the company that its job is done and has invited them to appoint liquidators. However, the directors have not done so, in spite of the move being only a formality usually. Part of the

problem is that KPMG is concerned that Buchler Phillips, the firm that Mr Hinchliffe favours, advised the Sheffield businessman while Facia was still running.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4038.7	(-10.5)
Yield	3.87%	
FTSE All Share	3285.98	(-4.0)
Nikkei	21029.25	(-61.09)
New York		
Dow Jones	6016.34	(+28.96)
S&P Composite	704.73	(+4.07)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.50%	(5.50%)
Long Bond	6.85%	(6.85%)
Yield	6.85%	(6.85%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	5.75%	(5.75%)
6-month Interbank	5.75%	(5.75%)
12-month Interbank	5.75%	(5.75%)
3-month Bill	11.0%	(11.0%)

STERLING

New York	1.4807	(1.5751)
London		
\$	1.5755	(1.5753)
DM	1.7800	(1.7800)
FF	1.1763	(1.1763)
SFr	1.5801	(1.5770)
Yen	175.32	(175.32)
£ Index	87.4	(87.8)

NEW YORK DOLLAR

London	1.5285	(1.5307)
FF	1.1760	(1.1760)
SFr	1.2530	(1.2530)
Yen	111.63	(111.55)
£ Index	87.4	(87.4)

TOKYO CLOSE

Tokyo close	Yen 111.63	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$24.20	(\$23.50)

LONDON CLOSE

London close	\$281.65	(\$281.05)
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* denotes midday trading price

Brokers fined over pensions mis-selling

By Robert Miller
A SENIOR City watchdog yesterday handed down fines totalling £405,000 on four of the UK's largest financial broking houses, for mis-selling personal pensions. The guilty parties were also ordered to pay costs of £225,000.

The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the watchdog for fund managers, found that the firms failed to provide many of their investors, who transferred out of occupational and company pension schemes into personal plans, with "fair and clear written statements".

Imro said that in a number of instances investors had been unable to make balanced judgments on the rival merits of the pension schemes because the information they were provided with was flawed. Others were not given clear enough warnings about the dangers of leaving a generous company plan for the uncertainties of a personal pension. In many cases, said Imro, the record keeping and paperwork was very poor.

The largest of the fines was the £200,000 levied on Godwins, an independent financial adviser based in Farnborough, Hampshire. Willis Corroon was fined £95,000, Heath Consulting Company £70,000, and the Alexander Consulting Group £40,000.

The Imro action underlines the determination of City watchdogs to speed up the review of the one million personal pension plans sold since 1988. Since the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City authority, ordered the review in 1993, only a handful of individual investors have received compensation. Hundreds of thousands more may be unaware that they are entitled to redress.

The industry faces an estimated total costs and compensation bill of £4 billion. Commenting on the Imro action, Hunter Devine, chairman of Godwins, which has identified 1,167 problem cases, said: "I believe it is unfair in that Imro made a number of regular inspection visits prior to 1994 and we were given a clean bill of health. When they came back in 1994 they were applying a new and tougher set of rules to business they had already cleared."

Last year Godwins, which has to date identified 13 cases where average compensation of between £5,000 and £7,000 might be paid, made pre-tax profits of £4.25 million. There were rumblings among the life offices and banks yesterday that Imro was acting in a "high-handed" and "unfair" manner. A senior Imro source said: "Firms left to their own devices may be tempted to be concerned more with their bottom line than investors' interests. The regulator's job is to restore the balance to their thinking, and the possibility of discipline is very effective."

Man Utd shares on the ball

By Jason Nisse
MANCHESTER United shares soared another 49p to 559p yesterday — a two-day gain of more than £1 — as another rumoured bid surfaced and was shot down.

IMG, the sports promotions company run by Mark McCormack, was said to be preparing an offer, having failed recently to buy Olympique Marseille. United said it was not aware of any approach or proposals from any group and, while not directly denying the story, IMG played down the rumours.

Tim Jenkins, who heads the football side of IMG in the UK, declined to comment but admitted if IMG was to bid for United, it would severely stretch its resources.

IMG has 70 offices in 30 countries and an annual turnover of \$1 billion. If it had taken control of Marseille it would have paid £4 million with a commitment to invest another £14.6 million. United would cost at least 20 firms that.

Cup preparation, page 48

Executive denies £1m Abbey fraud

By Our City Staff

A SENIOR executive at the Abbey National went on trial at the Old Bailey yesterday accused of defrauding his employer out of more than £1 million.

Over a two-year period, Michael Doyle, said to be earning nearly £50,000 a year, allegedly approved agency invoices for work that had never been done and then took payments from the agency directors who had benefited.

Anthony Glass, QC, prosecuting, said: "He was by any standards a quite well-paid executive and it was really greed that got the better of Doyle."

Mr Doyle, now 35, of Avenue Gardens, Teddington, southwest London, was promoted to marketing services director in 1993. Mr Glass said, in the next two years he would more than double his earnings through fraud, Mr Glass alleged.

BA bids for troubled Air Liberté

By Jon Ashworth

BRITISH AIRWAYS has made a formal bid for Air Liberté, the troubled French regional carrier. BA is offering Fr25 million (about £3 million) for the airline, put into administration in September.

Output prices lift shares to record Clarke lays down ERM line

By Janet Bush
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT
THE latest set of encouraging figures on industrial costs and prices helped the stock market to another record close yesterday.

British producer output prices rose by a better than expected 0.4 per cent in September because of a rise in crude oil prices. Annual output price inflation, therefore, rose to 2.2 per cent from 2.0 per cent in August. However, stripping out food, drink, tobacco and petroleum, underlying output price inflation dropped from 1.3 per cent to 0.9 per cent, its lowest rate for 30 years.

Input prices — the cost of raw materials to industry — rose 0.3 per cent in the month. Against a year ago, input prices have dropped 2.9 per cent. In August, the year-on-year figure was a 2.2 per cent fall.

On the stock market, the FT-SE 100 index closed 10.6 points higher at a record 4,038.7. The City was cheered by the prices figures and argued that they should lead to lower prices on the high street.

Keith Davies, UK economist with Fourcast, said: "These figures suggest that the short-term inflationary backdrop in coming months will be sufficiently favourable to provide the Chancellor with the excuse he needs (along with sterling's strength) to resist the Governor's increasing calls for higher base rates."

Separate figures published today by the British Retail Consortium appear to back up this view. The latest BRC retail sales monitor shows that sales continue to grow healthily, but the rate of growth has decelerated. In addition, price pressures fell for the third month running.

Andrew Higginson, Chairman of the BRC's economic affairs committee, said: "Pears of a runaway consumer boom are misplaced."

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JOHN CHARCOL

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Daewoo bid could bring jobs to Antrim

By OLIVER AUGUST

DAEWOO, the Korean electronics company, is confident of acquiring part of Thomson, the French group, in a move that could bring up to 10,000 jobs to Northern Ireland.

This week, the French Government will announce the result of the privatisation auction for Thomson Multi Media, manufacturer of branded television sets. Daewoo has said that it will invest £1.7 billion in its European research facilities, including its plant at Antrim, if the bid is successful.

JB Chun, managing director of Daewoo Electronics Europe, insisted that the resumption of terrorist activity in Northern Ireland would not influence the group's decision to transfer more work to Antrim. "We are not worried about that. I have been involved in our operations in Northern Ireland since we began in 1989 and we have never been targeted or blackmailed."

In the auction for TMM, Daewoo is competing against Alcatel, the French consumer electronics group. Mr Chun said that he was confident of beating Alcatel because Daewoo is promising to invest heavily in TMM, while Alcatel's strategy would involve downsizing. Alcatel has also been rumoured to be considering moving TMM's head office to America.

The combined Daewoo-Thomson group would aim to manufacture 15 million television sets annually in Europe.

Mr Chun said: "The cost of labour as a percentage of total cost has gone down to 5 per cent. So it is cheaper to build the televisions here than to build them in Korea and then bring them to Europe."

While the western European electronics market is stable, Daewoo wants to use the manufacturing base in France and Northern Ireland as a springboard for sales in Eastern Europe.



John Goodwin, left, chairman of Highland Distilleries, and Brian Ivory, chief executive, sampling products of the whisky company

Confusion marks start of Gas referral to MMC

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prices battle between British Gas and the industry regulator began its formal referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission yesterday amid confusion over the terms of reference.

Clare Spottiswoode, Director-General of Gas Supply, appeared to back down over earlier threats that if the company refused her last price proposals for TransCo, the pipelines business, thereby forcing an MMC referral, she would institute a harsher valuation of the business and

possibly widen the inquiry beyond the question of pricing controls.

While sticking with her last valuation of TransCo, a crucial formula for British Gas's revenues, and not explicitly widening the terms of reference, yesterday's referral nevertheless emphasised that the regulator was empowered to broaden the reference. This could be extended to include British Gas's exploration and production arm.

British Gas believes that a possible extension to the refer-

ence would not have been mentioned had it not been in the regulator's mind to do so. A spokesman for Ogas said that the terms would only be widened if the MMC asked for such a move.

The referral to the MMC has been triggered by British Gas's rejection of pricing proposals for TransCo, which would have cut domestic bills by £28 a year. The company has claimed that the harsher pricing controls mean that it would have to halve its workforce of 20,000.

Ms Spottiswoode set out her ground in the referral to the MMC by saying the present controls that govern TransCo's revenues were against the public interest. She said that they allowed the company to set higher prices than necessary, provided inappropriate incentives, failed to encourage competition in some areas, and did not allow sufficient monitoring of TransCo's spending.

Philip Rogerson, Deputy Chairman of British Gas, said that the uncertainty over the terms of the reference added to the regulatory uncertainty in the industry.

He said: "We had 15 to 16 months of discussion over this review and we are not clear about what will be presented to the MMC. This doesn't make for good regulatory practice."

The MMC investigation is expected to take six months.

This week Ogas is expected to deliver its final pricing proposals for the supply side of British Gas's business, which cover its pricing to domestic customers.

Takeover costs hit Highland

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE takeover of Macallan-Glenlivet cut profits of Highland Distilleries by 14 per cent.

Highland made pre-tax profits for the year to August 31 of £37.1 million, down from £42.9 million a year ago. Earnings were hit by a £3 million reorganisation charge, which includes £2.3 million in payments to Macallan directors who have left and to 25 staff made redundant at Macallan's Craiggallachie whisky plant, and £200,000 in Macallan bid defence costs.

Interest costs rose by £2.8 million, mainly because of carrying a 26 per cent shareholding in Macallan from January to August 12, when the acquisition, done in conjunction with Suntory of Japan, was completed.

The worse than expected results sent Highland shares down by 3 per cent, to 330p.

UK sales of The Famous Grouse, Highland's main brand, fell by 3 per cent as the domestic whisky market shrank by 4 per cent. The brand's market share rose from 13 to 13.3 per cent.

Earnings per share fell to 20.1p, from 21.9p. The final dividend rises to 6.3p (6p), making 8.3p (7.9p).

Ex-director sues for £1.28m

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

A FORMER director of Littlewoods is claiming £1.28 million from the company's pensions trust for unpaid pension benefits.

Prodip Guha, who was fired two years ago for alleged gross misconduct, is already suing Littlewoods for wrongful dismissal. Littlewoods has

launched a counter claim. The dismissal of Mr Guha, who was an international director and deputy chief executive, helped to bring to light a power struggle within the company between family members and management.

The struggle escalated as the National Lottery took foot-

ball pools' business and culminated last year in a failed £1.1 million takeover bid by N Brown, the catalogue company, and Iceland, the frozen food retailer.

The company declined to comment on Mr Guha's action against the Littlewoods Pensions Trust.

Oil spill payouts could total £20m

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

CLAIMS for damage to the fishing and tourism industries after the haling of the Sea Empress oil tanker off Milford Haven are likely to total £20 million, it emerged yesterday.

Loss adjusters acting for fishermen and workers in shellfish processing said the oil spill had been "disastrous" for the industry. Hoteliers, owners and caravan sites would be making smaller claims because the summer season had been better than expected, said a spokesman for MPC, one of the leading loss adjusters.

Hoteliers affected by the pollution disaster at the beginning of the year met oil industry officials yesterday to

discuss compensation for their summer losses. They claim figures from the Wales tourist board show demand for hotel and guest house accommodation was 5 per cent down in August, the fifth successive month of decline. Some businesses have reportedly suffered a 20 per cent downturn.

But MPC said a higher number of day-trippers and families on weekend breaks meant that the summer had not been as bad as first anticipated. Claims may be reduced by up to 10 per cent if the body responsible for compensation, the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund, decides that poor weather kept away tourists.

WDA plans to lift exports

By IDIA SMITH

THE Welsh Development Agency has appointed Tom Myerscough, chairman of Courtaulds Japan, to help to boost exports of Welsh automotive components to Japan.

Automotive components is the largest manufacturing sector in Wales. The sector's 150 companies employ 20,000 people and generate £1.8 bil-

lion of sales a year. The agency believes that a further £6.25 million could be generated annually by sales to Japan.

Dr Myerscough has already led initiatives to export British automotive components and textiles to Japan under the Department of Trade and Industry's Action Japan export drive.

Sixty names seek talks over demands

Lloyd's to issue more writs

By JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S of London is preparing to issue a second batch of writs in its efforts to recover £500 million in outstanding debts.

Names in Canada are likely to feature in the latest demands for payment, expected within the next ten days.

Tony Gooda, the former Lloyd's underwriter, and Robin Kingsley, chairman of the Lime Street Agency, are among Lloyd's personalities to feature in the first batch of 240 writs, issued last week. They are being pursued for £1.67 million and £1.26 million

respectively. Names have reacted angrily to the demands, questioning the validity of the figures.

At least 60 names have approached Lloyd's requesting talks. Rupert Galliers-Pratt, who featured in the initial tranche of writs, said he was willing to pay once the amount involved had been established. Mr Galliers-Pratt, an Old Etonian, said: "I've had three different estimates of amounts owing to me. Tell me which one it is, and I'll send them a cheque." The writ cites a figure of £50,000.

Sally Noel, who faces a demand for nearly £300,000, said she would continue to resist calls for payment. She said: "They are pulling them [the figures] out of the sky. No other business would be allowed to get away with it." Mrs Noel claims she was fraudulently recruited on to two high-risk Lloyd's syndicates. She publicly cut up her 34-page writ at the weekend. The first action against names in America is expected in early November. Lloyd's hopes to have the first test cases in court by Christmas.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

ADM agrees \$100m fines for price fixing

ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND, the American agricultural products company, has agreed to plead guilty to federal charges related to price fixing and to pay \$100 million in fines. ADM said that the agreement, which is subject to court approval, settles the US Justice Department's investigation of price fixing of feed additive lysine and citric acid, and closes a third inquiry, related to high-fructose corn syrup.

ADM said that it will pay a fine of \$70 million relating to lysine, an additive for animal feed, and \$30 million in connection with citric acid, used in various foods and drinks. ADM said the agreement is a global resolution of all matters between Justice Department and ADM. It is not known whether the Justice Department plans to charge executives.

Water stake 'not for sale'

WASTE MANAGEMENT International, whose US parent owns 30 per cent of Wessex Water, yesterday stood by the holding amid reports that disposals may be imminent. The company, which reported a 7.9 per cent increase in third-quarter pre-tax profits to £42.8 million, said the position was unchanged from a statement in the summer that the stake was not about to be sold. Speculation has surrounded the WMX Technologies holding since WMX appointed a chief executive, Philip Rooney, who indicated that non-core operations could be sold. Wessex is bidding for South West Water.

Rocky road for Fiat

SHARES of Fiat, the Italian car manufacturer, yesterday fell to their lowest price for almost three years amid a lack of consumer confidence in its domestic market and worries about the impact on exports from the high value of the lira. The shares fell below the 4,000 lire (about £1.50) level to close 1993, 1.49 per cent at 3,964 lire, their lowest since December 1993. Italy's car market has struggled to recover from recession and sales look set to fall below the levels of 1993. Consumer confidence has been further unsettled by worries over a new Eurotax, part of Italy's tough 1997 financial budget package.

French telecoms plan

GENERALE DES EAUX, the French diversified utility, hopes British Telecom will join it and Mannesmann, of Germany, to run the telecommunications operations of SNCF, the state-owned railway company. Generale des Eaux made a formal bid for the operations yesterday with its German partner, Bouygues, the construction to media group, has tabled a rival offer in partnership with Stet, of Italy. France plans to deregulate the telecommunications regime in 1998, breaking the domestic monopoly of state-owned France Telecom to comply with European Union rules.

Racal in MoD talks

THE Ministry of Defence has entered into contract negotiations with Racal Radar Defence Systems as prime contractor for the radar and mission system upgrade of the Royal Navy's Sea King helicopter, for early warning application. This closely follows the choice of Racal's Searchwater 2000 maritime reconnaissance radar for the Royal Air Force's replacement for its Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft. Recent selections are expected to result in orders worth more than £150 million to Racal once contract negotiations have been completed.

Gas pipeline go-ahead

CONSTRUCTION began yesterday on the Interconnector gas pipeline that will link Britain with continental Europe. The £460 million project will carry up to 20 billion cubic metres of natural gas a year from the terminal at Bacton, Norfolk, to Zeebrugge. About 8.5 billion cubic metres a year will flow in the opposite direction. Partners in the Interconnector consortium are British Gas, BP, National Power, Elf Aquitaine of France, Russia's Gazprom, Distrigas of Belgium, Ruhrgas of Germany and Amerasia Hess of America.

Chrysler sets record

CHRYSLER Corp, the American automotive company, reported a 92 per cent rise in profits for the third quarter as a surge in sales of cars, trucks and minivans boosted results to record levels. The company earned \$680 million, compared with profits of \$354 million. Revenues climbed to \$14.4 billion, a third-quarter record and an increase of \$2.4 billion, or 20 per cent, over the same period last year. Chrysler repurchased \$452 million of its common stock in the quarter. The company initiated a \$2 billion common stock buyback for 1996, and expects to repurchase an additional \$1 billion in 1997.

Spanish sell-off

THE Spanish Government proposes to relinquish its outstanding holdings in Telefonica, the telecommunications company, and Argentina, the financial services company, next year, Josep Pique, the industry Minister, said yesterday. The Spanish State has about a 25 per cent stake in Argentina and about 21 per cent of Telefonica. Senior Pique said the Government also plans to sell its remaining 10 per cent stake in Repsol, the oil company, next spring. The state is also considering the sale of part of its near-67 per cent holding in Empresa Nacional de Electricidad.

Tax plea to Chancellor

TAX RELIEF on Tessa schemes should be diverted to subsidise long-term care plans by making contributions tax deductible, the Association of Consulting Actuaries advises the Chancellor. It also wants greater flexibility for personal pensions and additional voluntary contributions to be diverted to financing care. Taxation on pensions needs to be simplified if more employers are not to opt out of final salary schemes, the association argues in its pre-Budget submission. It wants to restore the 1993 cut in the dividend tax that could be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue by pension funds.

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	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
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Austria Sch	17.89	16.49
Belgium Fr	52.76	48.46
Canada \$	2.241	2.081
Cyprus Cyp£	0.768	0.714
Denmark Kr	9.83	9.03
Finland Mk	7.78	7.14
France Fr	8.57	7.92
Germany Dm	2.57	2.36
Greece Dr	364	339
Hong Kong \$	12.85	11.85
Iceland	115	95
India Rs	10.00	9.25
Israel Sh	5.45	4.77
Italy Lire	2610	2355
Japan Yen	193.40	174.40
Malta	0.811	0.559
Netherlands Gld	2.882	2.632
New Zealand \$	10.81	9.99
Norway Kr	2.41	2.19
Portugal Esc	205.50	185.50
S. Africa Rd	7.78	6.58
Spain Ptas	166.37	150.37
Sweden Kr	11.04	10.24
Switzerland Fr	2.11	1.93
Turkey Lira	150000	140000
USA \$	1.678	1.548

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هكذا من الأصل

Worries over whisky sales Purge in wake of Peter Young affair Labour's election odds fall

Grain of hope in overseas markets

PREMIUM scotch whisky is at first glance one of those curious markets — children's safety equipment is one of the few others to spring to mind — where high prices may attract the consumer rather than deter a purchase. This is one reason the industry has avoided the sort of cost-conscious rationalisation that has befallen other industries and managed to remain true to its antique tartan image.

One of the few incursions from the real world was the cold-blooded swoop on Macallan-Glenlivet by Highland Distillers in July and its inevitable chaser, the sacking of almost half the former's Speyside workforce. What was interesting was the timing of Highland's move. The whisky industry had endured three winters of price wars. Christmas 1994 having been particularly awful.

While the best whiskies have always maintained their distance from the common herd, the cuts among cheaper brands had an unexpected effect. The entire pack shuffled back in price; aristocratic single malts used to commanding £20 or more suffered the indignity of being chopped up by the big supermarkets at 30 quid for two.

By last summer the worst of the damage was over, some single-digit price rises had been hammered through, and the

industry had decided to go into this pre-Christmas selling season with a united front. Yesterday's figures from Highland Distillers suggest this may not be easy. The industry has seen a 4 per cent fall in sales in Britain over the past year, suggesting the gradual decline in whisky drinking over the past couple of decades is accelerating. It may be that the earlier price cuts slowed the natural decline, and volume is now being sacrificed in return for higher prices. But it would not take much for one producer to break ranks and start the downward spiral again — to the customer's benefit and the industry's ruin.

Highland has a poor record for diversifying; it is not too many years since a daft venture into mushroom farming and a particularly hideous scotch-and-orange concoction for the youth market. The company is now producing its own gin, as yet an unproven quantity, and a special Famous Grouse brand for the Far East. It now exports one bottle of Famous Grouse, its main seller, for each one that stays in this country. The in-

dustry's salvation is going to be in markets such as India, China and South America, where whisky is often drunk, horror or horrors, with Coke or another mixer. Consumers seem strangely unconcerned whether the label features a sprig of heather or a lam-o'-shanter, either. They may be young, a market Highland and its rivals find it hard to attract on their home turf.

Some of the international drinks groups have already latched on to this and directed their advertising accordingly. The smaller producers will ultimately have to do the same.

Don't spare the axe at MGAM

FOR a while it seemed we were heading for yet another messy City cover-up. The pattern is familiar: hundreds of millions go missing from the vaults of Megabank, and after weeks of trawling through the details, a far-reaching purge is announced. The man in charge of ordering paperclips is fired, the



ten-lady demoted. The head of the department sends back to sleep again.

Either today or tomorrow, the purge of senior executives at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management in the wake of the Peter Young affair will be announced. Mr Young was a star among fund managers, not usually, admittedly, a charismatic breed, for his ability to pick winners. As it turned out, some of the valuations he put on his successes were dubious, and his investment strategy ran counter to both MGAM house rules and common sense.

Now Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, owner of the fund manager, must decide how far up the managerial chain the axe should

go. Already identified are the compliance director — fair enough, as the internal policeman he must attract some blame — and two of Mr Young's immediate bosses. As yet unconfirmed is the departure of Keith Percy, the chief executive and therefore the man at the top of the food chain at MGAM.

Mr Percy is an amiable and popular man, but his name must be on that list. He might go of his own accord, rather than work under his replacement, it is suggested. But to omit him would make a mockery of this summer's Securities and Futures Authority guidelines, put out after Barings and the survival of the two men at the top, Peter Baring and Andrew Tuckey, with their respective fortunes intact. These say a senior executive's ignorance of wrong-doing by subordinates is not enough to absolve him or her from blame. The same line was adopted by Imro, Morgan Grenfell's regulator, in the case of Jardine Fleming in Hong Kong.

Ahead of a decision on what to do with Mr Young himself, such an outcome, with resignations

going right to the top and no handsome pay-offs or "consultancy" deals either, would seem to confirm this doctrine.

City dusts off the Tories

HOPE is at hand for Conservative Central Office. Each month, Merrill Lynch asks fund managers responsible for more than £1,000 billion which party they think will have the most seats in the next Parliament. Each month so far this year somewhere between 92 and 99 per cent have given their un-sentimental vote to Labour. At the beginning, Merrill confesses, only one person in their sample reckoned the Tories would still hang on after the election.

All this has suddenly changed. A poll of 76 of these financial eminences, grise taken after Labour's conference and during that of the Tories found eight fund managers backing another Tory plurality. Labour's odds-on dominance is down to 59 per cent. But does this matter any more? In 1992, something like an

evens chance of a Labour victory produced sweaty palpitations on City exchanges. In pari, Labour is now favourite because it has few non-Tory financial policies.

Only utility stocks, pariahs ahead of Labour's posturing on "windfall" tax, have on the whole become less unpopular among the Nerds of the investment world than over the spring and summer. They are still far from being flavour of the month.

Being within infection range of the Bank of England, fund managers are more worried about inflation. They think short-term interest rates will have to go up, albeit modestly, after the election. Like a new boss charging anything possible to last year's accounts, new Labour is more likely to raise rates instantly and blame the Tories. New Labour, new orthodoxy.

Smokers welcome

A PRO-SMOKING action group has provided a list of tobacco-friendly health clubs — and a restaurant where you are encouraged to light up, which doesn't say much for the cooking. Next off the presses is the William Hill map of three-legged horses. Douglas Hogg on care-free beef farming — and Peter Young's selection of the world's finest unlisted securities.

Sluggish markets hold back Premier

By PAUL DURMAN

PREMIER Farnell, the electronic components distributor formed from a £1.85 billion takeover, is still being held back by sluggish markets and can see no sign of any short-term revival.

The company, now burdened with £10 million of debt, had slower growth in sales this year. Although the demand for computer chips remains strong, prices in the group's volume distribution business have fallen because of overcapacity.

These problems and £7.7 million of reorganisation costs restricted Premier Farnell to first-half pre-tax profits of £56.1 million. The original

Farnell business increased its operating profits from £32.9 million to £36 million on sales nearly 10 per cent higher at £277.3 million. The US-based Premier Industrial was included only from its acquisition in April, but made an opening contribution to operating profits of £33.9 million.

Farnell's US business has been moved to Chicago, the home of Premier's Newark Electronics, while Newark's European arm has relocated to Leeds. These changes and the elimination of head office duplication have cost about 150 jobs.

Copies of Farnell's catalogue of products have been sent out to Newark's customers and have prompted a promising level of new orders. Newark's catalogue is being sent to Farnell's customers for the first time this week.

The main impact from the market pressures was felt at Farnell Electronic Services, the volume component distributor. Management in Germany and Italy, where the group made lower profits, has been changed. Farnell increased sales and profits in the UK in spite of lower gross margins.

Farnell Components, the catalogue arm, continued to improve sales and profits although at a slower rate. Catalogue sales represent just over half the group's annual sales of almost £1.1 billion. CPC, which distributes spares and accessories for consumer electronic goods, produced "excellent" results, beating its profit targets.

After adjusting for rationalisation costs and other one-off items, reported earnings fell 6 per cent to 16p a share.

The company is increasing its interim dividend 19 per cent to 5.2p a share. It will be paid on December 2.

The company has paid off £50 million of borrowings, and retained a healthy level of interest cover.

Tempus, page 30

Prism on the track of £12m

PRISM RAIL, the consortium formed to bid for the newly privatised rail franchises, launched a £124 million rights issue yesterday as it began operating two new routes (Christine Buckley writes).

Prism, which already operates LTS Rail, now runs SW&W Railway, covering the western, southern and London Midland regions of British Rail, and Cardiff Railways. Its rights issue — at 240p on an 11 for 26 basis — was mounted to fund capital requirements for the franchises.

Prism, the only quoted company to specialise in rail transport, is on the shortlist to bid for four more regional franchises — CrossCountry Trains; Merseyrail Electric; Anglia Railway Train Services and West Anglia Great Northern Railway. Prism indicated a profit projection for the year to March of £8 million.

Jardinerie seeks growth in float

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

JARDINERIE Interiors Group, which hires, sells and maintains indoor plants for businesses, hopes to raise up to £4.3 million when it joins the Alternative Investment Market at the end of this month.

Most of money will be used to buy Tropical Plants Display and Office Landscaping. The acquisitions will more than double the group's turnover and will make it the second-largest player in the UK market, behind Rentokill.

William Braid, chief executive, said that the acquisitions are agreed and are dependent only on the listing. The two businesses will cost a little less than £4 million. The money

raised from the flotation will also be used to redeem around £300,000 worth of preference shares held by 31, the venture capital group.

The shares will be issued at 114p and the market capitalisation will be £10.2 million. The group — including the two acquisitions yet to be completed — turned over about £6.13 million and made a profit of £1.14 million in the year to September 30. On its own, Jardinerie Interiors had turnover of £2.9 million. Mr Braid said that he expects turnover this year to top £6.5 million.

Trading in the company's shares is due to begin on October 31.

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July 22-24	Sunny, daytime high in the 80s, sprinkles.
July 25-26	Heavy showers, daytime highs in the 80s.
July 27-30	Sunny and warm, daytime highs near 90°.
July 31-Aug 1	Light showers, daytime highs in mid-80s.
Aug 2-4	Clear and warm, daytime highs rising to mid-90s, nighttime lows rising to mid-70s.

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Shares reach record high as factory prices rise

INVESTORS on both sides of the Atlantic were on a roll again yesterday with share prices hitting new heights in London and New York.

The better than expected factory gate prices provided a new lease of life to London, allowing the FT-SE 100 index to claw back an early fall of 11 points.

A strong opening rise on Wall Street that saw the Dow Jones average climb back above the 6,000 level enabled London to finish just below its best of the day 10.6 points stronger at a closing high of 4,038.7.

But with the US bond market closed for the Columbus Day celebrations, turnover generally slipped to a low ebb.

It seems even the big boys are taking an increasingly bullish view of prospects for investors with the likes of BZW, London's biggest securities house, lifting its year-end forecast for the FT-SE 100.

BZW has raised its estimate from 3,750 to 3,900 with 4,300 already pencilled in for 1997. BZW says that the equity market is now beginning to look attractive after the recent sharp rise in the gilt market.

British Gas fell 4p to 184.2p after the industry regulator referred the price control of British Gas and its TransCo subsidiary to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Early attention focused on the financial sector where shares of the insurance companies were being chased higher. Speculative buying pushed Commercial Union up 9.2p to a new high of 677.1p.

Others to go better included General Accident 4.2p to 743.1p and Guardian Royal Exchange 2p to 274.1p, while among the life assurance companies Lloyds Abbey, the subject of a minority bid from Lloyds TSB, rose 6p to 646p.

Blenheim, the exhibitions group, stumbled 10.2p to 473.2p as the expected bid from United News & Media, publisher of the Daily Express,



Go-Ahead rose 6.1p with Thames Trains franchise completed

failed to materialise. Weekend reports suggested Reed Elsevier had decided against making a bid for Blenheim. Last week, VNU, the Dutch publisher, paid 500p a share for a 14.99 per cent stake in Blenheim.

Takeover favourite Manchester United received a further boost with the shares soaring 49p to 559p on the

Henderson Crossthwaite, the broker, is recommending Smiths Industries ahead of half-year figures tomorrow. It is looking for pre-tax profits to grow from £163 million to £188 million and says the group can easily achieve earnings growth of between 12 and 15 per cent a year. The shares rose 13.1p to 790p.

back of weekend reports that IMG, the sports marketing group headed by Mark McCormack, was also interested in making a bid.

Highland Distilleries has paid a high price for acquiring Macallan as half-year figures revealed. Write-offs totalling £3 million relating to the subsequent reorganisation took their toll on profits, which slumped from £42.9 million to

£37.1 million and left the shares nursing a fall of 9p at 330p. The outcome fell short of brokers' expectations and is likely to lead to a downgrading of full-year forecasts.

Some cautious words on current trading left newly merged Premier Farnell nursing a fall of 20.1p at 660p. Howard Poulson, chief executive, gave warning that conditions were likely to remain subdued well into next year.

Volume distribution was uneven. It was not what the market wanted to hear. Brokers are already aware that the acquisition of Premier will lead to earnings dilution in the current year and the drop in interim profits will not boost confidence.

Go-Ahead, the bus operator, rose 6.1p to 384p as brokers continued to ponder the benefits of the group being awarded the Thames Trains franchise. The deal has been completed.

Waste Management International marked firm at 292p after reporting a near 8 per cent increase in third-quarter profits to £42.8 million.

Airtours raced up a further 15.1p to 622p as brokers continued to calculate the benefits of the group's first expansion move into the US with the creation of a new subsidiary in California.

The London bond market made headway but with the US bond market closed, turnover fell well below recent levels.

The best performers were seen in index-linked issues still reflecting on Friday's unexpected half-point jump in the inflation numbers.

Rises of about 1% were recorded with the Bank of England expected to seize the opportunity and issue further tranches any day.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt rose 1/8 to £107 1/8 as the number of contracts completed fell well short of recent levels. A total of 22,000 had been completed by the close.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 firmed £1 1/2 to £101 1/2, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a tick lower at 104 1/2.

STREET INTEREST in oil shares and individual companies such as Intel and Caterpillar helped to boost the Dow Jones industrial average. By midday, it was 46.96 points ahead at 6,016.34.

MAJOR INDICES table with columns for New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and various indices like FT 30, FT 100, FTSE 100, etc.

RECENT ISSUES table listing companies like AEA Technology, Altech, Amer Opps U Ln, Brunner Mond, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES table listing companies like Davis Fin US n/p, FI Group n/p (105), etc.

MAJOR CHANGES table listing companies like Man Utd, Cohen (A), Carlab Pharms, etc.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES table with columns for Period, Open, High, Low, Set, and Vol.

MONEY RATES (%) table with columns for 1 month, 2 month, 3 month, 6 month, and 12 month rates.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%) table with columns for Currency, 7 day, 1 month, 3 month, 6 month, and Call rates.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co) table with columns for Bullion, Kruggerand, and Platinum prices.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES table with columns for M&M Rates for Oct 14, Range, and Close.

TEMPUS Battles in the air

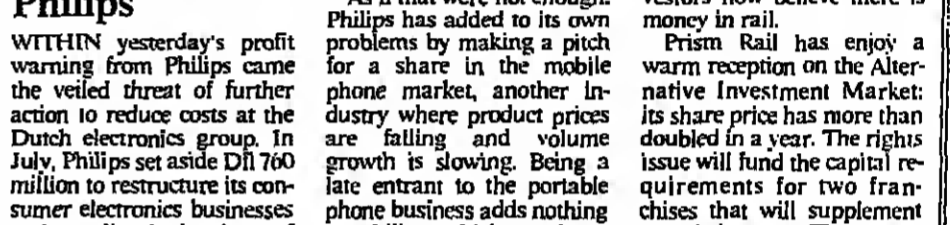
FOR British Airways, the bid for Air Liberté is a sideshow compared with its designs on the North Atlantic. The French carrier is minuscule, carrying 2.6 million passengers a year, a small fraction of the 100 million passengers that BA feeds through its global alliance.

Combining Air Liberté and BA's French carrier, TAT, would give the British airline over a fifth of the French domestic market and useful slots at Orly Airport. Success by BA in its bid for Liberté would also remove a threat to the future of TAT from AOM, the rival airline owned by Credit Lyonnais and currently up for sale as part of the rescue plan for the bank. Plans have been mooted for a

margin catalogue sales to smaller customers. The good news is that the catalogue business, which now represents more than half of group sales and 70 per cent of profits, is apparently sheltered from the weakness in semiconductor prices.

Enthusiasts point to the opportunity of selling a wider product range to a bigger customer list. Even so, just how many varieties of computer chip do its customers need? The danger is that a sale to a Premier client could be a sale to a Premier client.

The erratic share price suggests that the jury is still out. Uncommitted investors may choose to watch this particular show from the sidelines.



Philips WITHIN yesterday's profit warning from Philips came the veiled threat of further action to reduce costs at the Dutch electronics group. In July, Philips set aside Dfl 760 million to restructure its consumer electronics businesses and predicted the loss of 6,000 jobs, about 2 per cent of the workforce. The problems are well understood: falling product prices and high labour costs in continental Europe.

The solution is to shift manufacturing to lower cost areas and outsource more components but sacking people in France and Belgium is expensive. Having bitten the bullet, Philips may now want to cut deeper into its consumer businesses. But the Dutch company's troubles go further: the semiconductor industry is in a cyclical downturn and although Philips is not producing commodity products, it will suffer from industry destocking.

Prism Rail IF Prism's cash-raising goes well, it will in part be due to the success of Stagecoach, now a rival train operator. The latter's buccaneering zeal has done much to turn the City's attitude to road and rail transport from contemptuous indifference to hysterical enthusiasm. The mood was reinforced by the underpricing of Railtrack and investors now believe there is money in rail.

Prism Rail has enjoyed a warm reception on the Alternative Investment Market. Its share price has more than doubled in a year. The rights issue will fund the capital requirements for two franchises that will replace an existing one. The expansion that was formalised yesterday should continue with Prism in the running for four more tenders. Short-term City interest is expected to sustain its programme... at least until a change of government brings in a new policy for the railways.

Government subsidies and revenue guarantees are what make rail a safe bet. The Labour party's abrupt removal of its last transport spokeswoman suggests investors have less to fear. At the very least, Labour is unlikely to want to do anything that would discourage investment in the network.

WALL STREET table listing various US stocks like AMF Inc, AMT Corp, etc.

FTSE VOLUMES table listing various FTSE indices and their trading volumes.

COMMODITIES table with columns for LIFFE, CRUDE OILS, and various commodity prices.

MANCHESTER UNITED: SHARES HIT NEW HIGH AS ANOTHER SUIZER EMERGES table with columns for Manchester United share price and FT-SE all-share index.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE table with columns for various metal prices like Gold, Silver, etc.

LIFFE OPTIONS table with columns for various options contracts and their prices.

FTSE INDEX table with columns for FTSE 100, FTSE 250, and other index values.

STOCK MARKET table listing various stock prices and market data.

STOCK MARKET table listing various stock prices and market data.

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

HSBC's Lord of the Rings

HSBC shareholders should be watching when next year's pay packages are revealed. Last time the board tried to award itself a tidy £10 million for modest improvements...

Naked ambition

THERE is money in pop music. Nick Thorp and Maggi Drummond, formerly members of Curiosity Killed the Cat, have sold their own record label, Naked Records...

An open book

COLIN SHARMAN, senior partner of KPMG, was up a ladder in Bishopsgate yesterday to herald a £1 million advertising campaign...



Grounded?

THE course of British Airways' global strategy has never run smoothly. No sooner had BA announced its plans to expand in France through the proposed purchase of Air Liberté...

All bets on

JONATHAN SPARKE, who runs the adventurous Spread Betting Agency City Index, has announced this week that he will be merging with Sporting Index, his main rival...

NO STOPPING Lloyd's of London. It has taken a stand for the first time of the International Motor Show in Birmingham - a means of reminding people that one in six cars on the road in the UK is covered by a Lloyd's policy...

When it comes to job creation America wins hands down

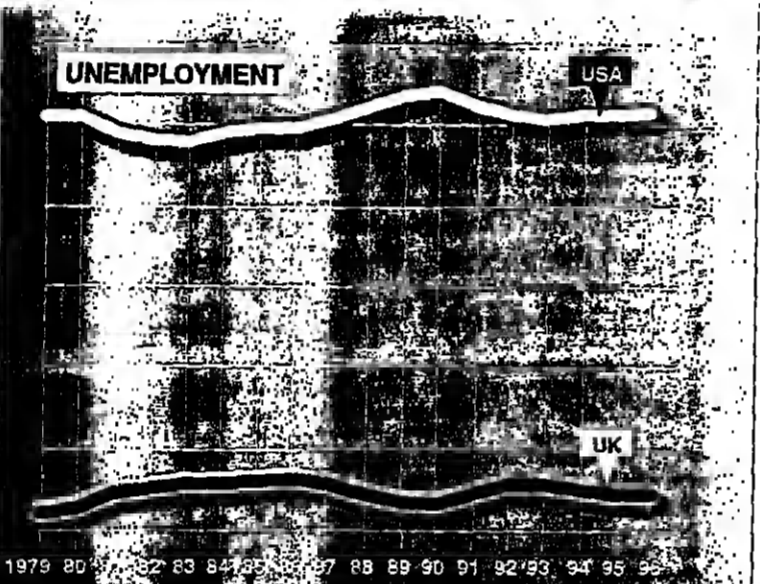
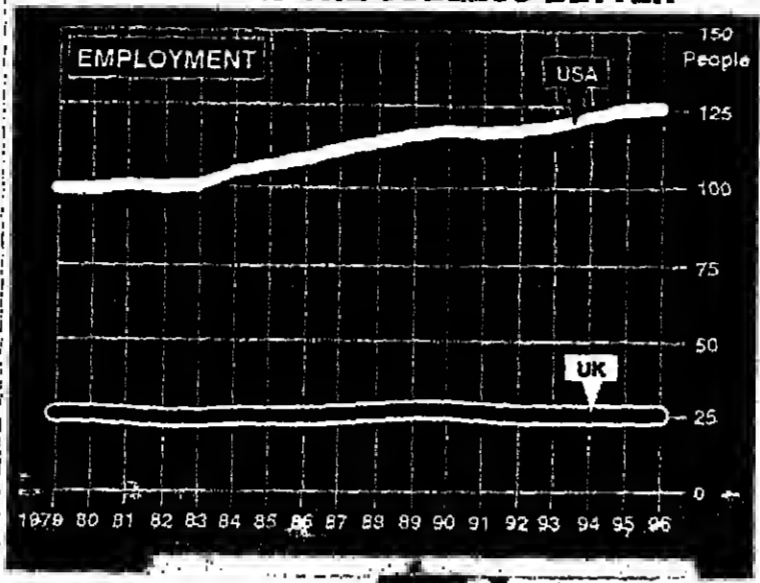
Tory claims on employment compare badly with US exploits, says Philip Bassett

Lunchtime Bournemouth, the retirement centre of Britain's south coast. Inside the town-centre Burger King Chris Butler, the assistant manager, is serving fries and hamburgers, taking phone calls, making sure tables clearers such as teenager Sarah Edmunds keep going...

Once, Conservative ministers used to relish the comparison between Britain and America over jobs, holding out the vision of the UK as a mini-US flexible labour market, service-sector dominated, Burger King pading Burger King across the pond...

Whatever its claims for Britain's economic performance under the Conservatives, the Government simply can't match that - or anything anywhere like it. Compared to the EU, the UK's job record - especially on unemployment - is good. But not over the long-term, compared to the US...

US SERVES THE JOBLESS BETTER



From 1979 to 1996, UK employment grew overall by just 300,000, or 1.2 per cent. Over the same period, employment across all EU countries rose by 7.5 per cent, across all OECD member states by 24 per cent, and in the US by 28 per cent, with America putting on more than 27 million jobs...

more limited increase in US unemployment which has risen 20 per cent since 1979. The record has been better in recent times. On unemployment, since the 1992 general election and Clinton's election later the same year, the number without work in America has fallen by 2.3 million, and by well over 600,000 in the UK - 570,000 lower than its last peak in December 1992...

With a 21 per cent fall, Britain's unemployment record since 1992 far outstrips the rise in joblessness of 6.5 per cent for the OECD, and as much as 19 per cent for the EU, and is not too far short of the 24 per cent drop in the US...

What has happened in Britain, as opposed to major competitors like the US, is that more people have simply left the labour market - become 'economically inactive', as the statisticians like to call it. Since 1992, Britain's labour force has shrunk - down by more than 600,000 or 2.1 per cent, at a time when the US labour force has risen by 5.5 million, or 4.3 per cent, and even the EU has seen a 0.5 per cent increase in its workforce...

In the US, right-wing business leaders opposed to Clinton's re-election are scathing about the administration's claims over jobs, arguing that the job growth since 1992 is nothing to do with the federal government, and, if anything, may have been limited by it. They maintain that it is largely, if not wholly, due to a few key businessmen restoring corporate America by tough, downsizing decisions that have led - and are still leading - to big layoffs...

At Burger King in Bournemouth, such entrepreneurship looks a little distant. Instead, Chris Butler and his crew use the front windows of the restaurant to try to drum up staff. Headlined in a neat twist on the company's slogan 'You got it - we want it', a poster says: 'Whether you are young or old, male or female, looking for full-time or part-time work, we may have a job for you...'...



Don't bait the Bundesbank

To ease a Rutweiler is unwise, even when you believe that the beast is securely chained. The same maxim applies to annoying the Bundesbank, especially if you are a politician or investor. In the past few weeks, however, large numbers of financial speculators and a handful of European leaders seem to have forgotten about the vicious results inflicted by the German monetary watchdog on their older and now wiser brethren...

Since the end of September, when the Italian Government announced its amazing 'budget for Europe', continental markets have taken off for a fiesta at Club Med - or should I say Club Madrid? Hedge funds have been bidding up Italian and Spanish bond prices to undream-of levels, and investment analysts have been outbidding each other with forecasts of their clients could make by piling into bullish 'convergence' trades...

In fact, the markets no longer seem to care whether Club Med countries will actually hit their targets. The decision will be made by politicians, not central bankers, is the market's refrain. The Bundesbank has predictably started growling. On Monday and Tuesday last week, three of its directors, led by Hans Tietmeyer, delivered powerful speeches about the dangers of softening the Maastricht criteria in any way to allow a wider circle of countries into EMU's first round...

But it is realistic to believe that Italy's quarrelsome politicians will continue to back Signor Prodi's painful budget cuts, even if they are obviously falling their stated purpose of getting Italy into EMU? What happens if, instead, the disappointed taxpayers demand a refund of the special 'tax for Europe'? At present, investors are not even considering such questions. The reason is that people have had such fun and made so much money in Club Med markets, they are intoxicated by greed...

BUSINESS LETTERS

Companies need to find a way to provide for the 'uninsurables'

From Mr Rocco Segreti Sir, I read with great interest that an underclass of uninsurable drivers is emerging in Britain (Car insurance underclass being frozen out, says AA, October 9). This trend has been highlighted in recent research projects carried out by IBM with leading insurance companies from around the world...

Help must be given to British Gas

From Mr D. W. Taylor Sir, Although having a good 'whinge' about their troubles with British Gas may make your correspondents feel better, it will not solve them. Neither will engaging a private plumber, who is never going to be available 365 days of the year. Only doctors and British Gas will come out on Christmas Day!

Labour's pledge to business

From the Shadow Trade Minister Sir, In his recent interview with Philip Bassett, Ian Lang confessed that he feels 'fury, just fury' when Labour maintains that it is now the party of business ('Lang confident business will turn out for Tories', October 8). With business support for Labour now twice as strong as in 1992, the Conservatives are clearly worried...

Bill confusion

From Mr P. E. Wood Sir, Like Mr Taylor (Business Letters, October 4), I too received a British Gas account after a delay of nine days. In my case, however, with no reason given, I have been credited with the full (net) amount of the previous bill which itself included a £2 plus VAT

ROBECCO GROUP

RORENTO N.V. (investment company with a variable capital) EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS to be held on Thursday, 31st October, 1996 at the offices of Robeco Afdelen N.V., Pinnerstraat 24, Willemstad, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, at 10.30 hours. AGENDA 1. Opening 2. To compose the Management Board 3. Closure...

هكذا من الأصل

Shares dip on profits warning at Philips

By Oliver August

PHILIPS, Europe's highest consumer electronics producer, yesterday shocked markets by announcing that expected profit improvements had not materialised. The shares fell 5.5 per cent on the Amsterdam bourse on the news.

The profits warning gave rise to speculation that a fresh restructuring would be unveiled with third-quarter results on October 24. In July, the company said that it was cutting 1,000 jobs over the next 18 months as part of a restructuring that aimed to place work in countries where costs were lower.

A Philips spokesman yesterday said that it would be necessary to accelerate planned actions for recovery but declined to elaborate. "It's quite clearly an early warning," he said. "We felt that we

should not wait until next week."

The news surprised Dutch dealers. "It's horrible. We had not expected this," said one dealer. Analysts said that Philips, like its competitors, was trading in tough conditions. They said that tight business controls would help to improve earnings.

Steven Vrijlk, an ING analyst, suggested that Philips could "go over every division again". He added: "In our opinion, it's not only the consumer products division but there are also problems at the professional and systems division, which is not making money. They've got to just keep cutting costs everywhere they can. Eventually that will mean fewer jobs in Europe and probably also in the United States."

Marc Langeveld at Kempen & Co said that the profits warning would serve to focus attention on re-organisation when the results are announced next week, the first set of figures since Cor Boonstra became chairman of Philips on October 1.

He said: "I believe there will be further restructurings. But that's only normal with Boonstra taking up office. He would have done that anyway. It's best to do those things when you just start your new job. It's difficult to forecast. It will be restructurings that take place at a micro-level."

Mr Vrijlk said that he had been forecasting a 1.1 billion guilders (£407 million) net profit from normal operations for the first nine months of 1996. "That has to come down. We were not negative enough for third quarter results." He is now looking for Dfl969 million.

Tempus, page 30



Geoff Halstead, left, and Stephen Knight, financial director, saw profits edge ahead

Mixed fortunes at Halstead

By Martin Barrow

PROFITS at James Halstead Group, the commercial flooring and leisure products company, edged 3 per cent higher to £10.63 million in the year to June 30, helped by a reduction in raw material prices and the first contributions from new ventures.

But there was margin erosion at the Conway Products

subsidiary, supplier of security cabins, trailers and trailer tents, which incurred a loss for the year. The company blamed "inefficiencies and poor cost control" and said it has made management changes to restore margins.

Halstead's Driza-Bone outdoor clothing business also suffered mixed fortunes, with

strong sales in its home market of Australia, but weak demand in Britain, America, Germany and France.

The company, whose managing director is Geoff Halstead, is paying a final dividend of 6p a share to lift the total by 8.8 per cent to 9.25p. Earnings were 23.5p a share (22.75p).

Eurotunnel takes a twin track

By Our Business Staff

THE management of the car and passenger rail services running through the Channel Tunnel is to be split, Eurotunnel announced yesterday.

The Anglo-French company, which last week announced details of its crucial financial restructuring, said it

would be reorganised into two businesses. Le Shuttle and Railway Services.

The Shuttle includes the running of the trains that carry cars and lorries on a shuttle service between Folkestone and Calais.

Railway Services will serve Eurostar, the high-speed trains travelling between

London, Paris and Brussels, run by the national rail companies of Belgium and France and London & Continental Railways, the UK consortium.

Bill Dix, previously chief commercial officer, is appointed managing director of Le Shuttle, while James Evans continues as director of Railway Services.

They will report to Patrick

man appointed to replace Sir Alastair Morton, takes up his post on November 1.

The announcements follow a board meeting last Friday, which approved a formal request to the British and French governments to extend the length of the 65-year franchise to operate services through the tunnel.

Last week, the company unveiled details of the complex refinancing deal involving its 225 banks initially taking a 45.5 per cent stake in Eurotunnel.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Daily Mail acquires Southex Exhibitions

THE Daily Mail & General Trust, the UK publishing and exhibitions company, yesterday completed the acquisition of Southex Exhibitions, the trade and consumer exhibition division of Canada's Southern Inc, for £576.6 million (£36.2 million). Southex, based in Toronto, is a show management company, producing more than 90 shows in 38 cities. In 1995, the company earned pre-tax profits of £56.4 million on turnover of £41.7 million. Net assets were £100,000 at year-end.

In the current year, turnover is expected to rise to about £53 million, due to acquisitions. Daily Mail said the investment in Southex was complementary to that of its existing DMG Exhibition Group in Britain, whose shows include the Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition.

Burford goes shopping

BURFORD HOLDINGS, the acquisitive property company, has bought a 179,000 sq ft shop and office complex in Glasgow from private clients of Hoddell Stobbesbury for £18.85 million. Retailers with outlets at the Savoy Centre include Next, New Look and In-Shops, who generate about £950,000 a year in rents. Gross rental income from the centre totals £1.7 million. The company said that more than 60,000 sq ft of a total of 51,400 sq ft of offices is let under a peppercorn rent.

Allied London changes

ALLIED LONDON PROPERTIES, the property development and investment company, said that 30 per cent of its portfolio changed in the year to June 30. The company raised £45 million through disposals, and spent £36.2 million on property. Since the year end it has sold property worth £32.5 million and spent £14.9 million on acquisitions. Pre-tax profits were £9.16 million (£11.06 million) and earnings fell to 6.5p a share (9.5p). The total dividend is maintained at 4p, with a 2.82p final.

Australian banks merge

ADVANCE BANK and St George Bank, two of Australia's largest regional banks, are to merge in a deal valued at \$2.65 billion (about £1.33 billion). The merger appears to be an attempt by the two Sydney banks to stage off a takeover by one of the big four Australian banks, which are not allowed to merge with each other and have been eyeing smaller banks. Bank of Melbourne shares rose more than 4 per cent in early trading on speculation that it could be the next bid target.

RM nets Virgin deal

RM, a supplier of information technology to schools, has teamed up with Virgin Net, part of Richard Branson's Virgin Group, to provide an education service to homes via the Internet. RM, which also supplies IT to colleges and universities, said it had signed an exclusive agreement with Virgin Net, which has designed an Internet access service for the UK consumer, aims to launch in November. It plans to make the RM service available early next year.

Bombardier test flight

THE Bombardier Global Express, the new long-range business jet, took to the air for the first time in Toronto at the weekend. The aircraft flew for two hours and 46 minutes, reaching an altitude of 11,000 ft and a speed of 210 knots. Testing continues at Bombardier's flight test centre in Wichita, Kansas. Aircraft deliveries are scheduled to begin in the fourth quarter of 1997, with certification in the second quarter of 1998.

Detectors contract for Graseby

GRASEBY, the electronic instruments group, has won a £22 million three-year contract from the Swiss defence procurement agency (Oliver August writes). The Swiss will receive chemical agent monitors (CAM) from 1998, subject to Parliamentary approval.

Graseby has spent six years developing the portable hand-held CAM in conjunction with the Swiss. The company is also developing an explosives detector to counter the terrorist threat to aviation. Graseby shares rose 2 1/2 to 129 1/2p.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund type and name. Columns include fund name, price, and change. Includes sections for various asset classes like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.



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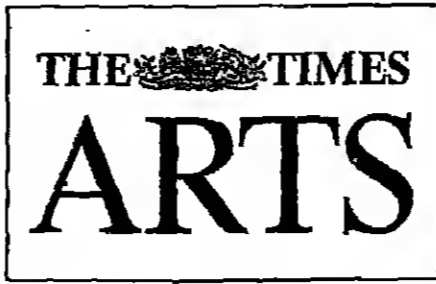
THEATRE 1

Hedda Beeby and Tish Francis celebrate a £4 million facelift for their Oxford Playhouse



THEATRE 2

From revised Restoration to uncompromising modern: Dublin's Festival had something for all



THEATRE 3

A talented cast can do little to remedy the National's staging of Jonson's The Alchemist



THEATRE 4

... while in Derby the prolific John Godber offers unusually dark fare in Gym and Tonic

THEATRE: Curtain up on a lavishly reborn Playhouse; plus reviews from Dublin, London and Derby

Oxford does the honours

The Oxford Playhouse, less than 60 years old, is not one of those venerable old theatres worshipped by conservationists. Its distinction lies instead in the cast of luminaries who have trodden its stage...

gramming plans would soon close the place again. The celebrity-studded inaugural gala for the by then safe theatre in April 1991 featured a play called Some Old Moon... and a bomb scare.

the operating surpluses which have whittled the accumulated deficit down to a manageable £50,000, and the quality of the shows which want to use it.

There have been inevitable blips - a play called The Cemetery Club lost enough money for its name to be almost prophetic - but the introduction of the likes of Adventures in Motion Pictures, Opera Factory, the Cholmondeleys and LIFT has been greeted by healthy box office returns...

Included in the new season brochure are Opera Factory's Magic Flute, Griff Rhys Jones in Ben Travers's Plunder (pre-West End), and no fewer than three warnings about the offence potential of certain scenes in Lindsay Kemp's Variété, V-Tol Dance Company's By Force of Fantasy and the OUDS's student production of Sobol's Ghetto.

The new Playhouse will be bright, with comfortable seats, luxurious leg room, somewhere convivial to eat and drink, and a hospitality room for the sponsors - "why shouldn't they have one for what they do for us?" said Francis.

SIMON TAIT

We've tried to appeal to new audiences

bling the brick. The reopening could literally have brought the house down, but the management had prudently put aside a contingency fund which covered the £15,000 costs of repair.

"I think this is the best-run set-up I have ever been involved with," said Sir Claus Moser, the theatre's chairman, and he has been involved with a few, including the Civil Service and the Royal Opera House.

The Playhouse had been the university's property, and although the four leases were given to the theatre five years ago, the assumption that Gowen rather than Town holds sway has taken a while to dispel.

"We've tried to appeal to new audiences and keep the old ones," Beeby said. The proof of the pudding is in the average 70 per cent box offices.



Under wraps: Hedda Beeby (left) and Tish Francis on stage at the Oxford Playhouse

Desire on the fringe

Luke Clancy rounds up the best of the Dublin Theatre Festival

Any production in this year's official Dublin Theatre Festival will have to battle hard to match the strange energies unleashed in the fringe show, Streetcar.

Director Annie Ryan described her production as a commedia dell'arte version of the play, but the manic influences of Jim Carrey's Mask and Jack Nicholson's grimacing Joker were equally apparent.

Closest so far to attaining the left-field power of Streetcar was Starving Artist's Road Movie (Peacock). With just a good lighting plot, a chair and a bangle, Mark Pinkosh unfurled a narrative journey across America that took in bump and grind in a New York back room, tears at Washington's Vietnam monument and cable television nirvana in a Mojave motel.

including a sassy condom-dispensing diva who would give Streetcar's Stella a run for her money - to deliver a continent in 90 gleaming, sad and defiant minutes.

In his Stella By Starlight (The Gate), Bernard Farrell is back in familiar territory, Dermot (Tom Hickey) is a failed Dublin apparatchik, who, after losing his job, uproots his wife, Stella (Marion O'Dwyer) and daughter, Tara (Janet Moran) and takes to the Wicklow Hills.

Desperate Optimists' latest devised performance, Todul-

gence, was inspired by Freud and Breuer's groundbreaking psychoanalytical case study of Anna O. Using a mix of dance, trance music, smoke pots, jaded effects, meandering jokes and psychoanalytical confession, the company turned the Arthouse into the scene for an occasionally fraught evening.

Unfortunately, much of Indulgence has the vaguely thwarted air of someone who has hesitated just a little too long. The company's style, artfully casual in its intricacy, leads an audience to expect, even to hope for, a direct confrontation, without ever delivering one.

The Abbey's festival offering was She Stoops to Folly, as "derived" by Tom Murphy from Goldsmith's The Vicar of Wakefield, and thoroughly en-



Mark Pinkosh in Road Movie

Fool's gold from debased metal

The Alchemist Olivier

WHEN Benedict Nightingale reviewed this production at its Birmingham premiere fit is a co-production mounted by the National Theatre and the Birmingham Rep, he expressed the hope that some trimming and tinkering would be done before it arrived in London.

Ben Jonson is not an easy dramatist to bring into life on the modern stage, and this play, which seems a straightforward piece at first glance, almost always defies the efforts of director and cast.

The string of fools who arrive at Face's door while his master is away want to be rich or lucky in love, which in Jacobean days meant finding a rich woman. They are induced to part with their gold and sent away unsatisfied, returning later with more gold only to suffer the same disappointment.

The fractious opening scene gets the play off to a bad start, from which it seldom recovers. Simon Callow (Face) and Tim Pigott-Smith (Subtle, the alchemist) call each other endless rude names, but there is no vocal excitement of a quality to make one listen to what is being said.

The play appears to be set in some post-apocalyptic future, presumably dystopic because William Dudley's set

requests and the rogues' preposterous language roots the escapades so firmly in the past that contemporary parallels become too far-fetched to be taken seriously.

Callow gulls his victims in English, Welsh and Scottish accents; Josie Lawrence (a raunchy Doll Common) adds Irish with her twitting Fairy Queen. A few of the crises generate the odd laugh, but after Alexander's fine work at Birmingham this play is a disappointment.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Josie Lawrence, Simon Callow and Tim Pigott-Smith in The Alchemist

Dark Godber far more illuminating

Gym and Tonic/Pow! Derby Playhouse

WHAT sort of man goes foraging for a bottle of wine and reappears saying: "Bacchus returns"? A twerp in a John Godber play, that's who, Jeremy Kingston writes. One of his unhappy husbands for

whom life hasn't turned out as he expected, whose wife feels unwanted - small wonder in this case, since she is a nasal and apologetic whiner - and who can't understand his children. But Godber's Don in

Gym and Tonic read English at university and Godber needs to remind us of this, bringing in literary allusions, mostly Shakespearean, in the way that some people lard their conversation with snatches of a foreign tongue.

Don is stressed, and he and wife Shirley, whose frequently mentioned dislike at being called "love" he ignores, come to a health hydro to relax. What you expect to happen to him there duly happens. He cannot believe he has to take off his clothes for the massage, almost faints for lack of a Cornish passy, and will not survive the night without alcohol.

literature doesn't solve this hero's problems, suggesting that the superficial optimism so grating in Godber's past work could, just possibly, be giving ground to darker, more truthful perceptions.

He also introduces a character new in his work, an elderly widow, extremely rich, dithering between eccentricity and shrewd wisdom. Marcia Warren delivers her throwaway lines with an easy panache. James Hornsby presumably does what Godber wants him to do as Don, Gilly Tompkins's voice grates on the ear but at least is audible, whereas much of what is uttered by Justine Glenon, playing two

hydro helpers, never reached Row M.

Aidan Healy's Pow!, directed in the Studio by Penny Ciniwiz for Paines Plough, tells of a once promising boxer trying for a comeback. As always in plays about boxing, the bout is fixed; just as inevitably, the combat doesn't develop as planned.

Healy's work is still raw, using the irritating mannerism of sentences interrupted after two words and creating a ghastly woman manager (Helen Anderson) too hysterically sarcastic to be credible. But the scenes in the ring are well imagined: Wil Johnson's bruised Ray tempts his opponent with an exposed eye before jabbing a punch, all the while delivering a commentary of unspoken thoughts. Norman Roberts's performance as the cheeky, coltish, younger Ray is excellent.

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VISUAL ART 1

Beyond the fat ladies: the National Gallery focuses on Rubens's stunning landscapes



VISUAL ART 2

... while Jane Simpson's London show casts domestic objects in a new, sculptural light

THE TIMES ARTS



RECORDING

Herbert von Karajan gets the 'Building a Library' accolade for Parsifal



TOMORROW

Ian Hart, the fast-rising actor from Liverpool, takes stock of his sudden fame

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on a neglected side of Rubens; plus a Pop pioneer's prints and London shows

A genius for fleshing out landscapes

On a visit to the Prado some years ago I found myself in a grand room filled with dimpled Rubens nudes at their fleshest. A Spanish guide entered, leading a posse of tourists, and announced: "Here, ladies and gentlemen, is the master of the chubby women." His audience sniggered, as he knew they would. And I soon realised, from their reactions in particular paintings, that the joke prevented them from seeing Rubens's work as anything more than a gross celebration of female bodies with a weight problem.

For Rubens has been dogged by similar remarks whenever his art is displayed, and they caricature the achievements of an outstanding painter. Now the National Gallery has hit on an excellent way of letting us see him anew. By devoting itself to his landscapes alone, this hugely stimulating show concentrates on Rubens's capacious imagination at its most personal, direct and innovative.

Not that he started out with landscape as his overriding goal. Rubens took a surprisingly long time to mature as an artist, and his formidable ambitions focused on mastering the human figure. He first appears in Christopher Brown's exhibition as a man willing to collaborate with Paul Brill, whose large Landscape with Psyche was probably painted in Rome and then sent to Rubens in Antwerp. He simply added the eagle and the figure in the foreground — a diminutive woman dwarfed by the drama of Brill's craggy hillside and waterfall. Five years later, Rubens was still prepared to add the naked figures of Adam and Eve to an elaborate landscape painted by Jan Breughel the Elder. By then, however, he had already decided to explore his own growing fascination with the countryside.

A consummate draftsman, Rubens always made a point of going outdoors and making preparatory studies, even of mundane weeds and undergrowth. His early Pond with Cows and Milkmaids is enlivened by a rapturous involvement with willows, tree-stumps and the reeds sprouting so thickly at the water's edge. Both women and animals seem incidental, confined to a corner and stiffly defined in comparison with the vigour of



Milkmaids with Cattle in a Landscape ('The Farm at Laeken'): "Rubens integrated figures, animals and countryside in a boisterous hymn to the natural world"

the vegetation around them. They could almost have been added by another artist, but within a couple of years Rubens proved himself triumphantly able to integrate figures, animals and countryside in a boisterous hymn to the abundance of the natural world.

Milkmaids with Cattle in a Landscape, more commonly known as The Farm at Laeken, places the two young peasant

women at the very centre of the foreground. Rubens delights in their comeliness, and lets a cornucopia of fruit spill out of the basket on one milkmaid's head. But a nearby wheatsheaf is heaped with an even more luxuriant harvest of vegetables, and their richness is at one with the fertility of the land all around.

We can sense Rubens's growing confidence when, around 1620, he

painted a lyrical panel of a shepherd with his flock and then, soon afterwards, incorporated much of its composition in a grander, more fluent and ambitious painting usually known as The Watering Place. The smaller of the two paintings is impressive enough, juxtaposing the calm of shepherd and animals with the intense drama generated by the sunset flaring on the other side. But The Watering Place is even more

so. Peasants, cows, horses and sheep are fused with their heavily foliated locale to a far more convincing extent. The tousled young man riding his mount into the river typifies the insouciance of Rubens himself, who orchestrates the tangled trees rearing from the rocks above with swagging aplomb. He knows, by now, exactly how to alternate between areas of knotted complexity and places

where one or two trunks are allowed to stand, in near-silhouette, against a sky alive with an apprehension of nature's inherent dynamism. The countryside is never seen as a static arena; it seems to shift and grow as our eyes travel across the painting's agitated surface.

Nor did he content himself with animating the foreground, and leaving more distant stretches to

settle into quiescence. It is no accident that he returned, time and again, to the subject of a wagon fording a stream. For Rubens likewise insisted on crossing over, in his imagination, from one part of the landscape to another in his agile determination to project himself into the depths of each perpetually receding scene.

During his last bout of landscape painting, in the mid-1630s, he entered into an even more supple, rapt and energetic engagement with the rural world. His purchase of Het Steen, a substantial residence set in an ample estate, ignited an even keener desire to consummate a love affair with countryside he could now claim truly as his own. Some of the smallest panels he painted then, like the exalted oil study of willows set ablaze by the sinking sun beyond, are so direct and freely brushed that they could easily have been executed on the spot.

The climax of his infatuation can be found in two prodigious panels painted, almost certainly as a pair, around 1636. One, the fiercely brushed Landscape with a Rainbow, cannot be lent by the Wallace Collection. The terms of the donor's bequest forbid it, and the full-size colour reproduction jarringly included in the show is no substitute.

The companion panel, an autumnal panorama where the Het Steen estate is exuberantly surveyed with the aid of a luminous early morning sun, looks equally triumphant. Like the hunter stalking his prey behind a flowering blackberry bush in the foreground, Rubens pursues his subject with eagerness, cunning and absolute resolution. His unfettered brush leads our eyes out and away from the sheltered house and into the open plain, taking flight with the ease of a bird and winging far across the meadows towards a verdant, infinitely desirable horizon. The sensuality of Rubens's obsession with his favourite region is conveyed here at full strength. No wonder he always kept this heady, miraculous painting in his own possession: it is the most heartfelt of all his landscapes.

Rubens's Landscapes, sponsored by Esso UK, is at the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-839 3321) from tomorrow until Jan 19

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available classical music recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

WAGNER'S PARSIFAL Reviewed by David Hockley WAGNER'S last opera, premiered in 1882, is often regarded as a Christian work, but it is more helpful to regard it as a study of the psychopathology of religion. Even more than that, Parsifal allegorises the conflict between emotional and sexual manipulation, represented by Klingsor and his unwilling accomplice Kundry, and the development of Parsifal's capacity for compassion. Because of Wagner's obnoxious racial views, which reached an alarming climax while he was at work on the score, it has become more fashionable than ever to debate how far he intended an anti-Semitic subtext.



of music". It is such an elaborate monument, though, that no recording is perfect. Of the 11 versions currently available on CD, Georg Solti's version (Decca) is very respectable, but his orchestral tone, though impressive, tends to be a bit heavy-handed. Armin Jordan's recording (Erato) brings together an effective cast but fails to work from an orchestral point of view.

Excellent though Daniel Barenboim's Parsifal (Teldec) generally is, he is let down by Matthias Hollé's Gurnemanz. Gunther von Karajan's Klingsor is a little colourless. Herbert von Karajan's Kundry, Dunja Vejzovic, does not have such a mature voice, though she does bring an appropriate other-worldly quality to the role. Karajan's Gurnemanz, however, is the unsurpassable Kurt Moll and there is an excellent Klingsor in Siegmund Nimsgern. Peter Hofmann's Parsifal is rather strained. Even so, his silvery tone is more appropriate than Jerusalem's for Barenboim.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times CD Mail to 250 Western Avenue, London W3 6XZ or freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (3pm): Chopin's Waltzes

AROUND THE GALLERIES

PERHAPS Jane Simpson's sculptural work on all three floors at Laurent Delaye has been installed too sparsely. She casts domestic objects and small pieces of furniture in soft rubber, connecting them occasionally to working refrigeration units. A nest of occasional tables is held up on the floor in an entanglement of wobbly crossed legs at one end of a space, while a real table slowly frosts up to hide the identity of a hastily abandoned set of keys and metal cup beneath a crusty accumulation of frost at the other. Jane Simpson's Material Girl, Laurent Delaye Gallery, 22 Barrett Street, St Christopher's Place, London W1 (0171-629 5905) until Oct 26

A THICK layer of sand on the floor slows progress across the space. The sand mounded high in the middle by Luigi Gelati has an off-cut of cheap red carpet laid on top. Andreas Rudolph's small and delicate still-life paintings on board carry their own spatial autonomy. David Medalla is represented by a large laserprint photograph of a ship in a bottle. Sophie Rickett's set of elegant black and white photographs of a road junction and Marco Bottoni's picture of Pinocchio's family also contribute well to a deliberately unthematised show. Sraocato, The Media Centre, 131-151 Great Titchfield Street, London W1 (0171-738 6662) until Oct 20

SMALL television monitors showing angled shots of small-scale models convey a disturbing sense of place. A bathroom, a staircase, two long and lumpy hotel corridors, have each been made up by Gary Perkins with a combination of artistic licence and model-maker's ingenuity. Perkins hints at the back-to-front relationship between invented reality and real object by showing the object of surveillance and resulting image side by side. Gary Perkins, Victoria Miro Gallery, 21 Cork Street, London W1 (0171-734 5082) until Oct 18

Dots and a dash of sculpture

Twenty-eight years ago pioneer Pop artist Gerald Laing created a series of silk-screen prints of his most avant-garde pictures, starlets, skydivers, dragsters and Brigitte Bardot, all painted in dots. Now these forgotten prints have emerged at Whitford Fine Art, rekindling Laing's reputation as a rival to Roy Lichtenstein.



BB (1968) by Gerald Laing

Laing's work in the early Sixties, along with Lichtenstein's, stemmed from commercial images in which life was like a beach-party movie. Both chose to work on a gigantic scale and to use dots. However, Laing's approach was romantic in seeking out heroic icons. Disappointed by reality, he glorified images of perceived perfection. The printing process of the billboard posters, magazines

work, based on a Young Contemporaries exhibition advertisement. He moved to New York, where Life magazine became one of his main sources of inspiration. Laing's Skydivers originated in a photograph of a red and white striped parachute collapsing. His Dragsters were initially based on a snapshot of champion driver Don "Big Daddy" Garlits. In 1968 Laing hand-printed the current series, but many were put into store after his dealer switched to selling Old Masters. Disenchanted with New York, Laing quit America and immersed himself in rebuilding a ruined castle at Kinkell in Scotland.

By the early Seventies he was concentrating on abstract, landscape-related sculpture. Then one summer dawn, after a party, he found himself

Advertisement for 'Talking Heads' by Alan Bennett at Comedy Theatre. Includes photos of Maggie Smith and Margaret Tyzack. Text: 'MAGGIE SMITH 'GLORIOUSLY FUNNY'' 'MARGARET TYZACK 'A WONDERFUL PERFORMANCE'' 'BRILLIANT BEYOND BELIEF'' 'GENUINELY MOVING'' 'WONDERFULLY TOUCHING AND FUNNY'' 'TALKING HEADS' 'BED AMONG THE LENTILS AND SOLDIERING ON' 'A MASTERPIECE OF ACTING AND WRITING'' 'ALAN BENNETT' 'COMEDY THEATRE' 'BOX OFFICE 0171 369 1731' 'SACHA CRADDOCK'

Advertisement for 'Living Bridges' exhibition. Text: 'LIVING BRIDGES' 'The exhibition has superb models of bridges, real and fantastic' 'A stunning exhibition' 'Living Bridges also includes the Thames Water Habitable Bridge Competition' 'Seven architects exhibit their designs for a new, disabled Thames crossing' 'Vote and mark your favourite in the future of London' 'Living Bridges' is supported by the Corporation of London and the Générale des Eaux Group in association with The Independent. The exhibition is organised with the Centre Georges Pompidou, (MNAM-CCD). 'Living Bridges' closes the Thames Water Habitable Bridge Competition.'

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VENUE: Opening night at Wyndham's Theatre

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 3

... while Ben Elton's Hollywood satire, Poppcorn, comes to Leeds

VENUE: This week at the West Yorkshire Playhouse

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LONDON

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A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargre

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As the workload of law-firms increases, many firms are becoming almost desperate in their need for staff. This in turn makes it easier for lawyers to switch from one area of specialisation to another.

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For further details contact the Institute of Art and Law at 47 Francis Street, Leicester, LE2 2BE; tel: (0116) 244 8871.

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BUSINESS TRAVEL

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15 1996

Rushing from A to B in real comfort

Sir Michael Bishop, the shrewd and well-respected chairman of British Midland, is convinced that Europe's business travellers have had enough of watching the pennies, sticking rigidly to ever tighter budgets and being forced to rub shoulders - literally - with leisure air passengers.

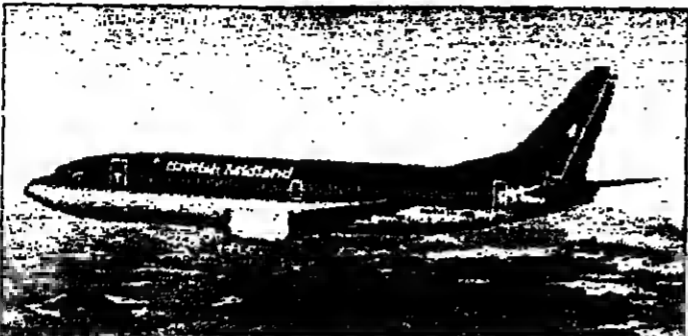
His instincts are backed by a new survey from *Vista International* which indicates that Britain's business travellers are beginning to rebel against the pressures and stresses of the cut-throat climate of the 1980s. They now want to put their travel time to more effective use - and that means taking more time on board for relaxation.

Despite the apparent unstoppable rise of the "no frills" airlines and the continuing demand for ever lower air fares, Sir Michael is prepared to spend heavily in giving pride and status back to the domestic as well as the European business traveller.

He does not believe that budget airlines will find it easy to succeed in Europe and he is convinced that the long-term profitability of British Midland is more likely to be assured by business travellers prepared to pay £230 for a full unrestricted return fare between London and Glasgow than by leisure travellers paying £58 for a heavily restricted Apev return.

Sir Michael is to introduce better meals and novel "concertina" seats which stretch to accommodate a business traveller and then shrink back to the shoulder-rubbing closeness of economy class travel. Business class lounges are to be

Harvey Elliott on the business of travel throughout Europe and what clients can expect for their money



British Midland is giving status back to the business executive

built at key airports with new machines to enable passengers with hand luggage to "swipe" their credit card for instant boarding passes. The same standards of service will be given throughout both domestic and intra-European business class.

Domestic air services are now one class. But there are up to eight separate fares depending on when the ticket was booked and on the number of restrictions attached to it. Yet regular business travellers are irritated when they sit beside someone who may have paid half as much as they did and yet who get the same standard and quality of service. There is no incentive to pay more with only one class, British Midland says.

The problem is that this means

that business fares will remain high - a phenomenon which is already concerning Neil Kinnoch, the European transport commissioner. He claims that on many EC routes, fares are often "significantly higher than crisis". He is threatening to launch an inquiry into excessive pricing on fully flexible business class tickets.

But business travellers - even on such short routes as Heathrow to Glasgow or from Heathrow to Paris - expect to be treated rather well. As the economy improves and the bells can be loosened just that little bit, they seem prepared to pay for it too.

On average, European business travellers spend a third of their working life - 52 hours a month - travelling for business. One in four

complain of the rules imposed by their head offices which means them flying at unsociable hours, using designated airlines, staying in inconveniently sited hotels and being forced to use economy class travel, says the *Vista* survey.

Business travel is on the increase both in short and long-haul routes. It is the business traveller who has triggered the enormous structural changes in the industry, epitomised by the planned alliance between British Airways and American Airlines.

Both have realised that business travel crosses all national boundaries and that the businessman with a company in Barcelona who has to fly to America has to go through a major "hub" airport to catch a long distance flight. That change can be made at Madrid, Paris, Frankfurt or London and the overriding criterion which will decide which he chooses is the ease of booking and the number of transatlantic flights available.

Lufthansa, KLM, SAS and others have already made arrangements with American Airlines, which are designed to attract these vital "feeder" passengers.

But it is a trend which does not please Richard Bramson, whose Virgin Atlantic has achieved an enviable reputation for service and quality among business passengers. Over the past ten years his airline has taken a 5 per cent share of the entire market between Europe and America and is rapidly expanding its operations on other long haul business routes.

But with no natural "feed" of passengers from smaller cities to



Europe's business people expect excellent service, and are prepared to pay more for it

help to fill the 400 or so seats on its jumbo jets, the airline is bound to be squeezed by those who do.

American and BA claim that if the alliance goes ahead and Heathrow is thrown open, competition is

bound to lead to a lowering of fares and further improvement in the quality of service. Virgin predicts that BAA will eventually have a monopoly and that business fares especially will then soar.

For millions of European business travellers - even more so than the airlines involved - the decisions taken by regulatory bodies and governments within the next few weeks could be vital.

Eurostar finally gets up to speed

Steve Keenan on a company that now has the powerful marketing of Virgin behind it

The Virgin takeover of Eurostar marketing this autumn gave business travel through the Channel Tunnel its biggest fillip to date. The company brought its airline expertise to bear on the rail service to Paris and Brussels and this was reflected immediately in pricing, advertising and marketing.

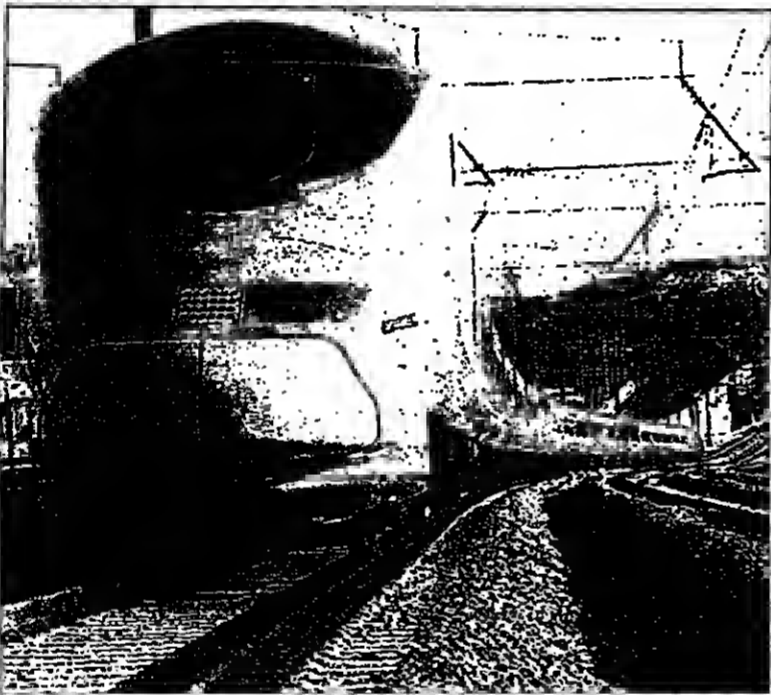
Virgin inherited a service that has already largely overcome the technical problems which plagued Eurostar in its first two years. It also inherited an expanding departure schedule - 14 daily services to Paris and eight to Brussels - which now matches those of airlines and fulfils a key business travel criterion of frequency.

But its growth - from 3.9 million to 6.4 million passengers in the year to August 1996, an increase of 64 per cent - has largely been in the leisure market, which has low profit margins. Virgin is looking to chase the floating business traveller with a series of enhancements and service initiatives, and a new pricing structure also introduced on October 1.

Virgin has copied its airline structure in having four classes of travel and introducing a new top-tier level, Premium First. The old First is now Business First, followed by Economy Plus and Standard.

The addition of Premium First means that Eurostar has bumped up ticket prices to £352 return from £265, the Business First fare. For the extra £87, travellers receive free car parking at Ashford and, to follow, a free taxi or chauffeured motorbike.

But they also have the option of flying out or back by British Midland on a fully interchangeable ticket, a big bonus for business travellers who often change plans at the last minute. For both Premium and Business



Eurostar has met key business travel agents to discuss improvements

First passengers, innovations this month include cutting check-in times to ten minutes, express check-in aisles and business lounges. A free standard return ticket comes with both classes and a frequent traveller points scheme will follow.

Eurostar has also got to grips with allowing ticket changes to be made over the telephone, rather than having to issue new tickets and forcing travellers to apply for refunds. Meanwhile, ticket dispensers have been installed in business travel agencies and are linked to computer reservation systems (crs), allowing immediate ticketing.

Such measures are specifically aimed at driving up profits from the business travel market while addressing weaknesses in the product. A Eurostar team recently met key business travel agents to discuss other areas where improvements could be made. The innovations go some way to

addressing grievances between the two camps, particularly on the collection of tickets at Waterloo where long queues at busy times have meant waiting up to 30 minutes. One in five business travellers collect Eurostar tickets on departure.

Mike Platt, director of commercial affairs at Hogg Robinson, says: "We would like to see a much smoother or automated way of picking up tickets. It is a source of irritation which Eurostar has vowed to put right."

The complaint was echoed by Brian Cronk, the commercial director of Carlson Wagonlit. "It isn't improving - there are good days and bad days and it is sometimes chaos at Waterloo," he says. "It needs a dedicated area for people travelling First Class." He said Eurostar's reservation system was also incapable of booking seats next to each other and suggested that the service should provide a quiet working carriage.

Business travel agents are also asking whether the new top fare of

£352 can be justified. Mr Platt says: "Each train has 800 seats to fill, so it could be argued the price shouldn't be so high."

But there are early signs that a Eurostar price war is on the cards. Virgin is one of six companies in the London & Continental consortium which took over Eurostar's UK franchise and will build the new rail link from London to the tunnel.

However, the Eurostar service is also one-third owned by SNCF French Railways and Belgian Railways. SNCF is approaching firms that spend heavily with offers of a corporate discount. Eurostar UK has responded in kind, while offering a joint discount agreement for both Eurostar and Virgin Atlantic.

Competition between SNCF and Eurostar UK towards offering cheaper fares or bigger corporate discounts is almost inevitable. There is no doubt of Eurostar's appeal to business travellers as the service has already taken more than half the air market to Paris and Brussels.

Passenger numbers flying between Heathrow and Paris CDG fell by 30 per cent last year from a peak of 3.3 million in 1993. On October 28, Air France follows Air UK and British Midland in ending flights to Paris Orly airport, instead of building services to Paris CDG to profit from travellers connecting with its long-haul network.

Carlson Wagonlit saw its air revenue to Paris fall by 30 per cent last year, while Eurostar revenues rose by 60 per cent.

The company also saw a 24 per cent increase in Eurostar passengers changing trains at Lille or Paris for other cities in France.

While the appeal of Eurostar has largely been restricted to date to users in central London or Kent, the planned expansion of Eurostar services from cities throughout the UK will also heighten its profile. Daytime services from Manchester and Birmingham start in March, and from Glasgow in June, calling at other UK stations en route. Overnight trains to Paris are due to follow.

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Top hotels cash in on executive five-star fever

Business hotels are commanding higher rates as demand from executive travellers reaches its highest point since the late 1980s. A survey from the consultants Arthur Andersen shows that the average rate for a London luxury hotel is, for the first time, more than £200 a night, and that such top London hotels as the Berkeley, Langham, Grosvenor House, landmark and Savoy are nearly all during the crucial midweek period.

"If you turn up during the week and expect a room on the spot, then you will probably be unlucky," said Tim Steel from Arthur Andersen.

The highest average room rate among 20 hotels surveyed was £282, although Andersen declines to name rates at individual hotels because of the survey's confidentiality.

For the first time, North Americans are the highest single source of guests for London luxury hotels, accounting for just over 36 per cent, with continental Europeans, at 20.4 per cent, just ahead of British-based guests.

London is not alone in experiencing higher rates, according to business travel agency Hogg Robinson. "The general increase in hotel rates worldwide reflects both a growing general demand for hotel accommodation and a renewed interest in more expensive rooms," said Carolyn Moore, Hogg Robinson's divisional manager for hotels.

"There is evidence that some travellers who had to downgrade from four and five star hotels during the recession are now becoming confident enough to return to them.

The more common trend, which is leading to higher average room rates, is to upgrade to more expensive rooms in the same hotels. Companies tend to be booking 'executive' rooms instead of the

Business travellers want to feel good, and now they're happy to pay for the privilege, says David Churchill

'standard' rooms more commonly requested in 1995.

According to the Hogg survey, Japan and Russia remain the most expensive countries to visit on business travel: Japan's average room rate rose almost 28 per cent this year in comparison with 1995.

Hong Kong moved from fourth place to top in Hogg's survey as the world's most expensive city, with an average rate of £155; London came 41st out of the 83 cities monitored.

In Western Europe, Italy experienced the biggest jump in average room rates — up 11 per cent — while Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany saw their rates decline.

"German cities such as Cologne and Berlin have softened their rates and are offering discounts even during their peak 'trade fair' periods," said Moore.

Although business travellers appear more willing to pay higher room rates, there is still concern over extra charges imposed by hotels. The Institute of Travel Management, which represents corporate travel buyers, last week met with representatives of the leading hotel chains to voice that concern. The managers argued that extra room charges could add at least 20 per cent to room prices.

While many executives avoid the excessive surcharges imposed by hotels on telephone calls by using a mobile phone or special calling card such as offered by BT, AT&T

and others, the newest area of concern is hotel laundry services and costs.

A survey by *Business Traveller* magazine concluded that "too many hotels appear not to have adjusted their laundry services in line with their guests' demanding travel patterns".

Andrew Solun, an ITM member and travel manager for Innarsat, the satellite communications company, said: "What is the use of having a laundry service from 9am until 7pm, when travellers turn up at 10pm and are away for a meeting or to catch a flight at 7 o'clock the next morning?"

According to the *Business Traveller* survey, European hotels have some of the highest laundry and dry cleaning charges in the world, with London coming out top of the 22 cities surveyed.

Hotellers prefer to focus on their efforts to win business travellers through other facilities, especially in-room technology. Following on from developments in the US, the leading hotel chains such as Inter-Continental, Marriott and Hyatt all believe the trend in business travel is for executives to want an office in their hotel rooms.

Most of the main business chains offer dual telephone lines, voice mail, modem links and computer access points, along with large desks, ergonomically designed chairs and better lighting.

Some hotels also have personal computers available, with the newly-opened Lindner Congress Hotel in Frankfurt claiming to be the first in Europe to offer a PC terminal in all its 315 rooms. Rooms have a modem, fax machine and multi-function ISDN phones with voice mail.

Claiming to be Europe's most technologically advanced hotel, it also has in-room television which offers 35 cable and satellite channels, 30 in-house video channels and eight Nintendo computer games installed.

Even small hotels are embracing new technology: the Chesterfield in Mayfair, central London, claims to be the first hotel in Europe to introduce an Internet service in all its 110 rooms. The system uses in-room televisions to provide a specially compiled Internet software package. Guests use a handheld keyboard similar to a television remote control to access electronic editions of thousands of newspapers and magazines from all over the world. The system is tailor-made to the Chesterfield's guest profile — mainly overseas business people — and also offers Internet web sites on business, finance, sport, weather and London entertainment news.

"We thought it would be useful for guests to come in, switch on their television and be able to read their hometown newspaper on the screen," said Peter Wood, general manager.



Duty-free shopping at Heathrow, which took £347 million last year from retail outlets. Britons are the biggest shoppers in Europe

EU presses on with tax law

The countdown is well under way to the abolition of duty-free shopping in the UK, ending the seemingly innocuous pleasure of buying a cheap bottle of whisky or case of wine.

The failure of Eurotunnel earlier this year to bring forward the scrapping of duty-free means shoppers have until June 30, 1999, to enjoy it.

The European Union insists that duty-free is incompatible with single-market laws. But the pro-lobby points out that duty-free is a £12 billion worldwide industry — of which Europe accounts for half — and says duty-free creates jobs, reduces airline prices and that its demise is unnecessary.

"The loss of duty-free income will have a serious impact on our revenue. Airport traffic charges could rise by up to 25 per cent and fares by 10 per cent," says Birmingham airport retail manager Steve Hodgetts.

But while lobbying to retain the system continues, the airports and the ferry companies are working on the basis that the privilege will go. It will be as hard on the retailers as the customers, the seven BAA airports in particular having become increasingly dependent on shopping income since the capping of airport charges by the Government.

Heathrow, helped by the weakness of sterling, earned £347

Steve Keenan reports on what the loss of duty-free shopping will mean

million from retail in the year to March 31, 1996, compared with £258 million from airport charges and £133 million from its property division.

The airport took two-thirds of the £550 million earned by the seven BAA airports. Gatwick taking £138 million and Southampton, Stansted, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen sharing the rest.

The story is repeated elsewhere. Newcastle airport saw retail income up 19 per cent last year, helped by new outlets in a £5.7 million extended terminal complex. This month Birmingham extended its shopping area by 170 sq metres to include swimwear, Timberland, Guinness and photographic products.

"Duty-free revenue is a very important stream of income and a vital element in assisting us to finance the future development of Birmingham International Airport," says managing director Brian Summers.

Duty-free sales also represent vital income for the ferry operators. Eurotunnel has more than trebled its shopping area at Folkestone to 24 tills, taking close to £1 million a week. The British are the

biggest shoppers in Europe. Two in five will buy duty-free goods, easily outstripping the 25 per cent of Germans who stop to shop.

The rapid development and diversification of goods at Heathrow was reflected in this month's *Business Traveller*, in which the airport leapt from fourth to top slot in a 1996 poll on the best duty-free airport. It pushed Amsterdam into second slot, followed by Singapore Changi, Dubai and Gatwick. The airport rated worst is New York JFK, followed by Los Angeles, Bangkok, Bombay and Hong Kong.

But although the airports and ferries are cashing in while they can, they are not sitting back and waiting for the 1999 deadline. With the EU fixed in its attitude, the shift towards tax-free shopping is inexorable. Once past passport control, the ferries, airlines and airports can sell VAT-free goods, often with further discounts off High Street prices. And it is tax-free that is growing.

There is a Beauty Centre and Selfridges at Heathrow; Austin Reed and Next stores at Gatwick; a Virgin megastore at Paris Charles de Gaulle and at Amsterdam Schiphol airport, an entire

shopping centre with 120,000 items. Airports like Schiphol and Dubai have international reputations for their scale of shopping, travellers often deliberately flying via them to take advantage.

Britain's airports are only beginning to catch up, attempting to squeeze more space out of terminals not designed to be shopping arcades.

At Gatwick, BAA is trying another development — electronic shopping. Galleria Twenty-One is a computer screen display, enabling travellers to order and send flowers, for example, and pay by swiping a credit card.

Technology is the one bonus for the airlines, envious of airport and ferry capacity and constrained by space and weight restrictions. Many airlines have now incorporated shopping channels in seatback videos, allowing passengers to collect goods at their airport on arrival.

Air 2000 this summer also spent £500,000 on an on-board computer to speed up credit card transactions and improve tracking of sales and inventory which, in tests, increased sales by 5 per cent.

However, the prospect of 1999 holds little fear for the airlines. "We receive a negligible income from duty-free sales, so our operations and ticketing will not be greatly affected," says a spokeswoman for Air France.



The Intercontinental in Singapore puts executives in the lap of luxury

As of October 27:

First across the Channel

Hertz has been advertising on television in Britain for the first time in a decade, a sure sign that money is back in a sector that has been in the doldrums for many years.

In common with other aspects of business travel, income from car hire fell in the first half of the 1990s and has only recently picked up, enabling rental firms to put up prices by 15 per cent this year. Some rental companies will not accept one-day bookings, particularly midweek, and the average length of rental has crept up to 4.3 days.

The recession has forced rental firms to become leaner. Their customers have much tighter travel policies and are demanding more for their money. The bonus for car hire firms is that technology has had such an impact on the sector that quicker pre-booking, collection and drop-off of cars and detailed billing is now a standard feature.

Hire firms know that business travellers require, above all, lack of hassle. The need to pick up and drop off a car as quickly as possible is a prime consideration when choosing a rental company.

But they also know that hiring a car is an unglamorous aspect of business travel for most people, a functional mode of transport lacking the appeal of an airline or hotel room. Loyalty is earned by service and a host of extras such as bonus points schemes, mobile phones or laptop computers and in-car computers giving routes and traffic information.

The firms have to tackle two markets: individual business travel hirers and the corporates, who between them account for more than half of all car rentals booked in Britain.

Hire firms ride again

Car rental companies are regaining customers. Steve Keenan reports

Working with a business travel agency is one of the most important keys to a corporate heart. A survey by Avis showed that more cars were hired because of agency recommendations than because of prices. Another important factor in car rental is the alliances between car rental and airline or hotel companies. The use of one gives discounts or upgrades on another.

Hertz recently joined Lufthansa's loyalty scheme and has relationships with British Airways, France and Alitalia. It also has marketing deals with Eurotunnel and even Disneyland Paris. Meanwhile, Dollar customers now benefit on American Airlines and Alamo hires with Hyatt.

'Loyalty is earned by service and a host of extras'

important at airports, which account for 27 per cent of corporate spending on car rental.

Hertz has taken the process further at Heathrow, where members of its El Club Gold programme see their name and parking bay displayed. The documents and keys are in the car, and identification is required only at the gate. Gold rentals now account for 30 per cent of Hertz business at airports and the programme is one of the main thrusts of its TV advertising campaign.

Companies such as Europcar, Eurodollar, Hertz and Alamo also issue customers with credit card-style ID cards through which data including payment details and driving licence can be accessed quickly in booking cars.

Eurodollar recently issued new cards, available to customers paying direct and with credit facilities linked to a company account, either of which can be swiped through a reader in the branch. The company was also the first rental firm offering quotes on the Internet, but without a booking facility, while its management system is now available in a Windows format.

For a few business travellers, style is more important than management systems or access to an airline loyalty scheme. Alongside standard Vauxhalls or Fords, the range of hire cars for hire now includes Ferraris, Jaguars — even Harley-Davidson motorbikes.

Budget makes a point of offering luxury cars. They include a Jaguar XJS for £149 a day or £649 for a week, and a Mercedes C-class Elegance for £69 daily or £345 for the week. The company also has three Harley-Davidsons at Heathrow from £99 a day.



Hertz's TV ad: a sign of increasing demand for car hire

Not last back.*

You can now be in Zurich by 9 a.m., board a connecting flight before 10, and beat many London nonstops to your European destination. After business, take an early evening flight to Zurich and our 8:50 p.m. to London. You couldn't spend your day much more efficiently than that. And better cared for: by Swissair hospitality. The catch? You'll have to be an early bird (but not necessarily a night owl).

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David Churchill on the deregulation of the European market and how one airline is making all the running in cossetting its passenger

An open sky and lower fares

Business travellers flying in Europe from next April could be in for a surprise. New European Union regulations come into force which will, for the first time, create a totally deregulated market for airlines based within the EU, plus Norway and Iceland.

The full implementation of the so-called Third Package of aviation liberalisation - which began in January 1993 - will from April allow European airlines to operate domestic flights anywhere within Europe. Since 1993, European carriers have had free access to all routes, apart from purely domestic services, thus eliminating the requirement that journeys should start or finish in the carrier's host nation.

Thus, for example, a French airline could offer a service between Madrid and Milan without the need to be routed via a French airport. From April, restrictions on foreign carriers operating purely domestic services in another member state will be abolished. The spectre of Lufthansa flying services between London and Manchester in competition with British Airways could, therefore, become a reality, although the German airline might be too worried about Air France attacking its Frankfurt to Berlin routes to bother about Manchester.

What impact will deregulation have? "Liberalisation will change the face of European business travel and the major players involved, among them corpora-

tions, travellers and travel management companies," Kyle Davis, head of American Express's European Air Fares Unit, says.

"Some of the biggest changes will be felt by the business traveller. It is likely that the individual traveller will have to get used to a culture of constant change. There may be a more convenient choice of schedules, but he or she will often be dealing with new or unfamiliar carriers. Add-ons, such as business lounges, may disappear as services become more basic, particularly at smaller airports.

As the US experience has shown, lower fares may also increase the total amount of air travel, leading to busier airports. And if the blurring that some foresee between schedule and charter does happen, then the business flyer may well find that he will have to accept the company of leisure travellers, too."

Mr Davis's comments may be ahead of the game as the indications are that Europe's airlines are not planning a major shake-up of their strategies post-April, especially to take each other on head-to-head in their home markets.

Moreover, American Express's own survey of changes since deregulation started in 1993, suggests that "passengers



New EU rules mean airlines can operate domestic flights anywhere within Europe

have not noticed a radical improvement in the choice of airlines on major routes."

The reasons, the Amex study suggests, have been partly to do with European recession and partly because of Europe's geography. Most of Europe's business travel takes place within the densely populated "golden circle" bounded by Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt, Milan, Paris and London where there are fewer

secondary airports, compounding the problem of slot congestion at most major hubs airports.

"The unavailability of slots elsewhere has made the large carriers reluctant to move away from their home airports from where they can at least exercise dominance over their home markets," the Amex report says.

British Airways has been most active in

developing a pan-European strategy to take account of deregulation with its acquisition of TAT, the French domestic airline, which it now owns 100 per cent, and with a stake of just under 50 per cent in Deutsche BA, the German domestic carrier. While both these airlines operate under BA terms and standards, from April BA will have the added advantage of being able to display its own code on computer reservation systems for both airlines.

But BA, like most of its European competitors, has found European flying an expensive business. "Our cost of providing a seat has risen faster than the price customers are prepared to pay in a highly competitive marketplace," Bob Welling, chief executive of BA, says.

Hence the move towards lower-cost operations via franchising. BA has put in place six franchise partnerships with regional carriers over the past three years, most of which operate under the BA Express brand. Air France also has a franchise as service between Southampton and Paris CDG operated by the small UK carrier Brit Air and branded as Air France Express.

These attempts to establish lower-cost operations have also come in response to

the growth of "no-frills" airlines. The concept, which originated in America, offers travellers a point-to-point fly across Europe without any of the add-on benefits such as free meals and drink although you can buy these on board bigger seats, and other services.

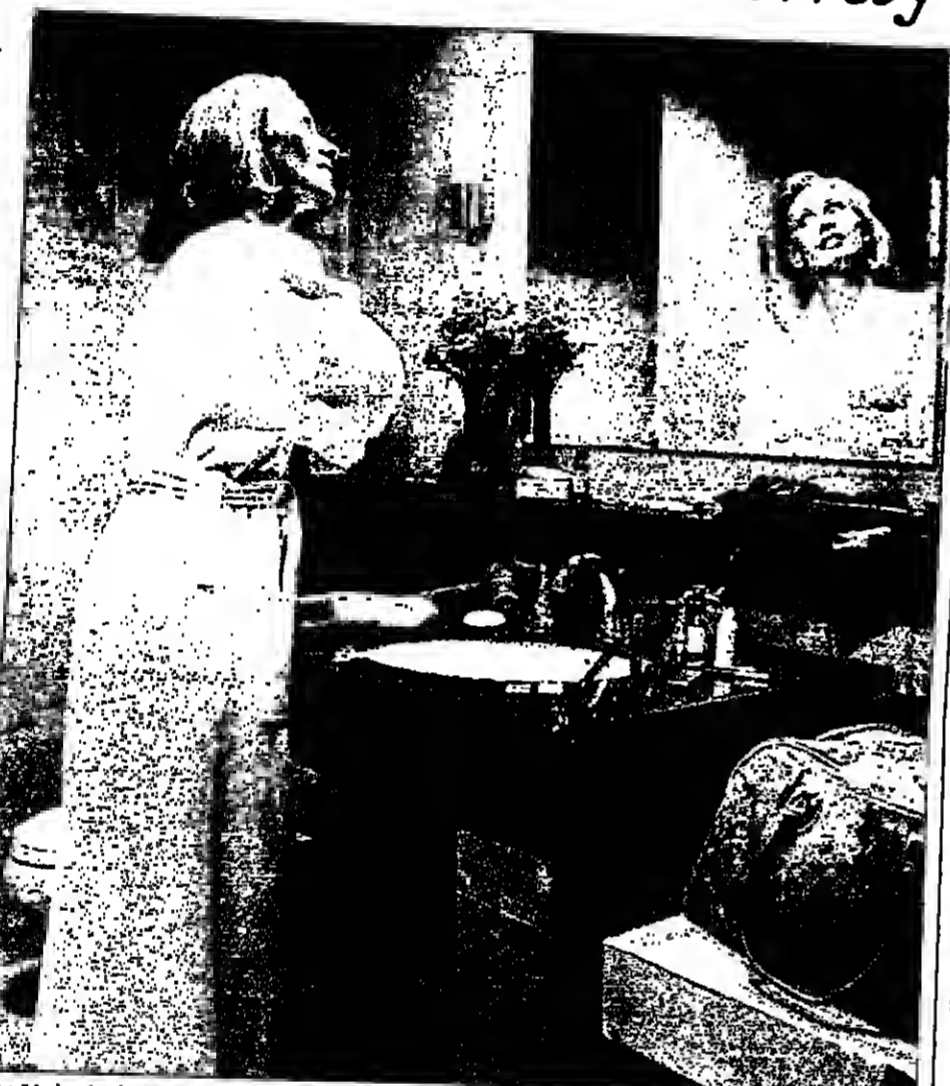
Fares can be 50 per cent or more lower than on scheduled carriers, although much depends on when and where you fly. Scheduled carriers base their more expensive fares on fewer restrictions which suit business travellers. No-frills airlines operate out of cheaper airports such as Luton, offer no on-board refreshments, and sell tickets directly without having to pay travel agents' commission, and other distribution costs.

But no-frills operators such as EasyJet surprisingly report that it has identified a significant proportion of business travellers among its holidaymakers, including some from large corporations as well as small to medium-sized businesses.

Such airlines may come and go, but the US experience is emulated in Europe, but there seems little doubt that the pace of change in Europe's skies is beginning to gather momentum. For business travellers, the issue is how far they are prepared to put up with less comfort in return for saving money. As one executive quoted in the Amex report wryly commented: "In two years' time there will still be two cabins or the London to Amsterdam service."

Strengthening the links between work and runway

Can the journey of 50 million passengers who use Heathrow each year be made easier?



At United Airlines' lounge, Heathrow, customers can take a shower and have breakfast

Richard Branson is claiming a new first in the airline world: a drive-through check-in service at Heathrow for business passengers on Virgin Atlantic. David Churchill writes.

Mr Branson, chairman of the airline, says: "We expect to whisk up to 200 Upper Class passengers a day through this new limousine service - another world first for air travel."

Virgin's Upper Class passengers, who are already driven to the airport in a complimentary Range Rover, are taken to a special area at the Terminal 3 short-term car park where a check-in agent and baggage porter complete formalities. Once equipped with a boarding pass they are dropped off at the departures level and walk with hand baggage only through the Fast Track security and immigration channels and into Virgin's clubhouse lounge.

Virgin has consistently adopted a strategy of cossetting its business class passengers even before they get to the airport - it was the first airline to offer a free limousine transfer and also has motorbikes available for a faster journey through heavy traffic - and its new service will clearly take some of the hassle out of airport journeys and may be extended elsewhere.

Delays in getting to and through airports remain one of the biggest problems for business travellers. A survey by the magazine *Executive Travel* about the problems of travelling to London's airports suggested that, while in theory there are good connections, "the reality proves to be somewhat different, because of traffic jams and road rage on clogged motorways and system failures, industrial disputes and frayed nerves on the underground."

The airport authorities are aware of the problems and Heathrow access should be helped by the planned Paddington Express Rail-link due in 1998. But BAA is taking no

chances with plans for a temporary station close to the airport to enable a limited service, with access by shuttle bus, to be in operation before the main service opens. Total journey time from Paddington under this scheme would be just 25 minutes.

The airport authorities have several other plans under consideration for turning Heathrow into a major rail hub, although these are dependent on private finance. One of the plans under discussion involves a fast rail link between Heathrow and Gatwick, a move which would increase the popularity of Gatwick with business travellers.

Those business travellers who prefer travelling to the airport by car are being wooed by the development of valet parking services. Corporate clients of Hogg Robinson, for example, can have their car parked when arriving at the terminal, and need only to make a freephone call to have

it returned. Hogg Robinson charges £13.50 for one day and £31.50 for three days. Other valet parking operators charge just over £24 for one day and £45 for three, although the longer travellers stay away the cheaper the service becomes in comparison with long-stay car parking charges. Hogg, for example, charges a fixed rate of £67.50 for 11 days or more, much cheaper than using the long-stay car parks.

Once inside the airport, the Fast Track system continues to be well regarded by most business travellers offering a speedy transit through security and customs, with added benefits at duty free and bureaux de change, although there are some reports that congestion can be as bad during busy periods as the normal transit channels. The Blue Track system used in some US airports is also causing concern: business travellers using

Miami airport, for example, have found the situation chaotic. They have particular difficulty finding the blue line to steer them through the Fast Track System. The newest lounge development at Heathrow is that of United Airlines. As with the British Airways and American Airlines arrival lounges, this offers 3,000 square feet of showers, individual valets, and personal baggage service to get luggage to hotels, breakfast and business facilities.

United has also just opened arrival lounges at Chicago and Miami airports. Mark Schwab, United's UK general manager, also points out that arrivals facilities for business travellers to freshen up are also available at many continental airports, including Frankfurt, Dusseldorf, Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam. "We think we have the most comprehensive and modern facilities for our arriving business passengers," he says.

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An expense account too far

Independent advice could save companies more than £5 billion a year on travel costs, says David Churchill

Better handling of the way European companies process their business travel expenses could save 6 per cent of their annual business travel — equivalent to a financial saving of about £5.6 billion a year, according to a new survey.

The survey of 77 major European companies, carried out by Price Waterhouse, the consultant, on behalf of American Express found that most companies waste time and money attempting to reconcile the travel expenses of executives on the move. This reconciliation accounts for about three quarters of the "hidden" processing costs of business travel, apart from the actual cost of airline and hotel bookings.

The study shows that the business traveller spends considerable time collecting receipts, itemising expenses and calculating exchange rates.

Vahan Eminian, a senior Amex vice-president, says the survey shows that reducing "the previously hidden costs of business travel represents one of the most important opportunities companies have in the 1990s to deliver substantial savings on operating costs."

In the majority of the companies surveyed by the consultants, an average of 20 expense reports for overseas travel were submitted by executives each year. Price Waterhouse suggests that this could be reduced to 11 reports if an automated system were adopted.

Other ways of saving money include eliminating internal travel

departments and letting executives make their own bookings electronically.

The scope for savings on business travel is significant, as the generally accepted figure of spending by British companies on all their business travel expenses (including entertaining) is estimated to be more than £20 billion.

In the United States, according to the figures released by Amex last week, corporate business travel spending is forecast to reach a record high this year of \$156 billion (£100 billion) compared with \$150 billion in 1995.

Mr Eminian says: "With business travel and related expenses rated as the third largest controllable corporate expense after salaries and data processing, any well-managed company should be seeking to improve control over its travel spending."

But getting to grips with controlling costs does not mean simply putting pressure on the airlines and hotels for better deals, says Richard Lovell, managing director of Carlson Wagonlit Travel in the UK. "Such savings through tough negotiation with suppliers may be vastly outweighed by the implementation of a successful travel policy, focusing company travel spend on a few selected suppliers," he says.

Business travel agencies are helping companies to implement their



Vahan Eminian: delivers savings

policies — including consolidating all European or even global travel. The main agencies — Amex, Carlson and Hogg Robinson — are now moving away from their traditional role as agents taking a commission from the airlines, hotels and car-rental companies and are now working as consultants to their corporate clients.

This role has been partly forced on the agents by the airlines' move towards "capping" the commission the agents receive, thus reducing their income. But the agents also

recognise that as companies feel the need to control travel spending, so advice from an agency becomes not only useful but also necessary.

Mr Lovell says: "Companies are becoming more sophisticated about travel management. But with the delayering of management during the recession and since, they often do not have enough scope to manage their travel as effectively. This is something we can do better than they can, and this is being realised."

In return, the agents are switching to a management fee system, especially with larger clients. Such systems have several variations, mainly to do with ways of coping with the commission airlines and hotels still pay. One practice is for such commission to go straight to the company, which then pays a fee to the agent.

Large companies, however, are also now employing high-level specialist travel managers to help to manage their travel expenditure. Unilever, for example, has a corporate culture of letting its worldwide operations (it has more than 300,000 employees in 80 countries and sales of £32 billion a year) operate fairly autonomously within its overall framework.

But in 1994 it recruited an experienced travel industry executive, Derek Jewson, to oversee its travel spending, to manage it more effectively and reduce some of the estimat-

ed £350 million the company spends on business travel and related costs.

Mr Jewson, who had worked for travel companies including British Airways and Hogg Robinson, says the aim was "to put the same sort of management discipline over our travel spending as we do when launching something like a new brand of detergent".

His approach, however, has not been to impose any systems on the operating companies but to offer advice and examples to show them how they can get a better deal themselves.

All the 27 UK operating companies were asked a year ago to join a committee advising best buy on travel (Cabor). Much of what Cabor has tackled so far is simply "good housekeeping" and clarification of existing policies. One major issue, however, has been dealing with frequent flyer programmes.

Mr Jewson says: "Our approach has been to recognise that we operate in the real world and that these programmes exist. But while we do not stop people accepting them, we do insist that they travel in the most cost-effective way for Unilever. If we find out, for example, that a traveller has plumped for a more expensive BA flight just to get Air Miles when there is a perfectly acceptable flight on another carrier, 20 per cent cheaper than BA, then we draw that individual's attention to the position."

This, adds Mr Jewson, is usually enough to end the matter.



Incentive trips include dog-sledging expeditions in Lapland

Fancy a spot of Arctic sledging?

An action trip abroad can be a big incentive to motivate successful staff

The good times are back in at least one part of the travel industry — the incentives market. Gung-ho motivation of sales staff by treating high-achievers to exotic overseas jollies was all the rage in the overheated, yuppie 1980s. Then recession struck and conspicuous hedonism at the company's expense became more difficult to justify to shareholders.

John Fisher, managing director of Page & Moy Marketing, says that his company's sales are up 25 per cent on last year. "In times of cost-cutting, you couldn't be seen to be doing it," he says, "but now that the feel-good factor is back, companies are beginning to appreciate the value of relationship building again. When money is not so tight, people start looking for that extra edge."

"In good times, cash incentives are regarded as cynical. It makes people feel as if they are economic units there to make money. Travel makes them feel as if they are valued as people."

The companies keenest to spend again on incentives are in the automotive industries, pharmaceuticals, information technology, financial services and telecommunications.

Sarah Webster, executive director of the Incentive Travel and Meetings Association, estimates that the UK industry is now worth £600 million, up from £500 million in 1994.

Len Altman, director at Maritz, says: "Nothing creates the same sort of desire as travel to an exotic location but it is not just that or the value of a trip. It is also that they are a symbol of success."

Such trips are usually hosted by the head of the sales team or the company for which they distribute, which means that participants can socialise with top executives.

Mike Whiteman, sales and marketing manager for Hogg Robinson's incentive travel division, says that the trips allow well-heeled people to do something as a group that even they could not afford or organise on their own.

Mr Whiteman says that incentives are no longer restricted to sales forces, traditionally the major beneficiaries of such largesse. "Strategically, companies are starting to take a more team-based approach and have noticed the potential of integrating areas such as accounts

and marketing on incentives," he says.

Destinations are also coming into line with economic realities. Graham Fraser, a Maritz director, says: "Until the late Eighties, clients were expanding their horizons by about 500 miles each year. The perception was that the further you went the better it got, and there were trips to countries such as China, Japan and New Zealand. For the next few years, during the recession, the word we heard more and more when choosing a destination was 'appropriate'. Budgets did not change but the perception had to be less glamorous."

Now, it seems, long-haul is back in favour, although at least half of incentive trips are believed to be short-haul, with Europe's most appealing cities — Paris, Barcelona, Vienna and Prague — among the top destinations. Ireland, with its reputation for the *craic*, is also gaining popularity.

In the search for novelty, some incentive organisers have even arranged trips to Finland, where the frigid entertainments include watching the Aurora Borealis, skidooring on motorised snow-bikes, reindeer and husky sledging, Arctic saunas and "lumberjack parties", which apparently involve chainsaws and copious vodka.

The United States remains the number one long-haul destination, although people now visit less familiar parts of America. Mr Fraser suggests Scottsdale (the fast-growing neighbour of Phoenix, Arizona), Santa Fe and Colorado. Ms Webster advises trips to New Orleans, Boston and Alaska.

Also proving very popular are southern Africa — although there is a shortage of hotels — and Australia. South America is tipped to grow in popularity. When it comes to what customers want to do on their trips, the message seems to be that Britons do not mind a spot of white-water rafting or game tracking but they do like five-star luxury treatment at the end of the day. "It is still difficult to sell places like India and Burma," says Mr Fraser. "The French, and particularly the Germans, are prepared to go three-star if they will get an adventure."

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A point in your favour

Frequent traveller loyalty schemes are a big hit, but the taxman is coming, says Catherine Chetwynd

You can almost earn loyalty bonuses on having your hair cut these days. Points for Air Miles are being awarded at restaurants and petrol stations, by airlines, and by credit-card, car-rental and hotel companies. But far from diluting the appeal, ready availability has turned loyalty credits into a second currency.

Spouses are suing for points in divorce actions, claiming they are entitled to some spilt-off from the so-called luxury of business travel, and families even bicker over rights to the bonuses of deceased relations.

But companies are beginning to question the advantages of loyalty schemes, as employees pursue not the company travel policy, but the most rewarding airline or hotel group. Research undertaken by MORI on behalf of Carlson Wagonlit, the business travel agent, shows that executives and travel managers admit Air Miles and frequent-flyer schemes could play an important role in affecting the choice of carrier.

In addition, the travel agent's guide to frequent-flyer programmes shows that while one carrier proves most lucrative on route A, another turns up trumps on route B, punting paid to any hope of consistency if travellers are left to their own devices in the quest for more mileage points.

Procter & Gamble led the way in ruling that points should be returned to the corporation, since they paid for the tickets. However, in the end, loss of morale exceeded cost savings, and the edict was rescinded. More than 50 Swedish companies, including Volvo, Electrolux and Saab are pressing SAS to redesign its Eurobonus scheme so that points are automatically returned to the firm. Electrolux hopes all the company's SAS credits worldwide will be placed in one account — an idea inspired by an arrangement between Norwegian company Kraemer and carrier Braathens Safe.

Some airlines have corporate loyalty plans, rewarding both employer and employee. Lufthansa's Corporate Mileage Dividend Plan allows points to be credited to a company account. A monthly statement is sent to the designated contact and bonuses are given according to class travelled. And Virgin Freeway also operates a corporate account, rewarding both traveller and company, although the traveller comes off better. In Premi-

um Economy, for example, the executive is credited with miles flown, and the corporation gets half. But the Association of Corporate Travel Executives remains unconvinced. Membership of ACTE covers every discipline in the travel industry, and at a seminar earlier this year, 84 per cent of travel buyers for multinational companies declared that they "preferred that loyalty programmes did not exist".

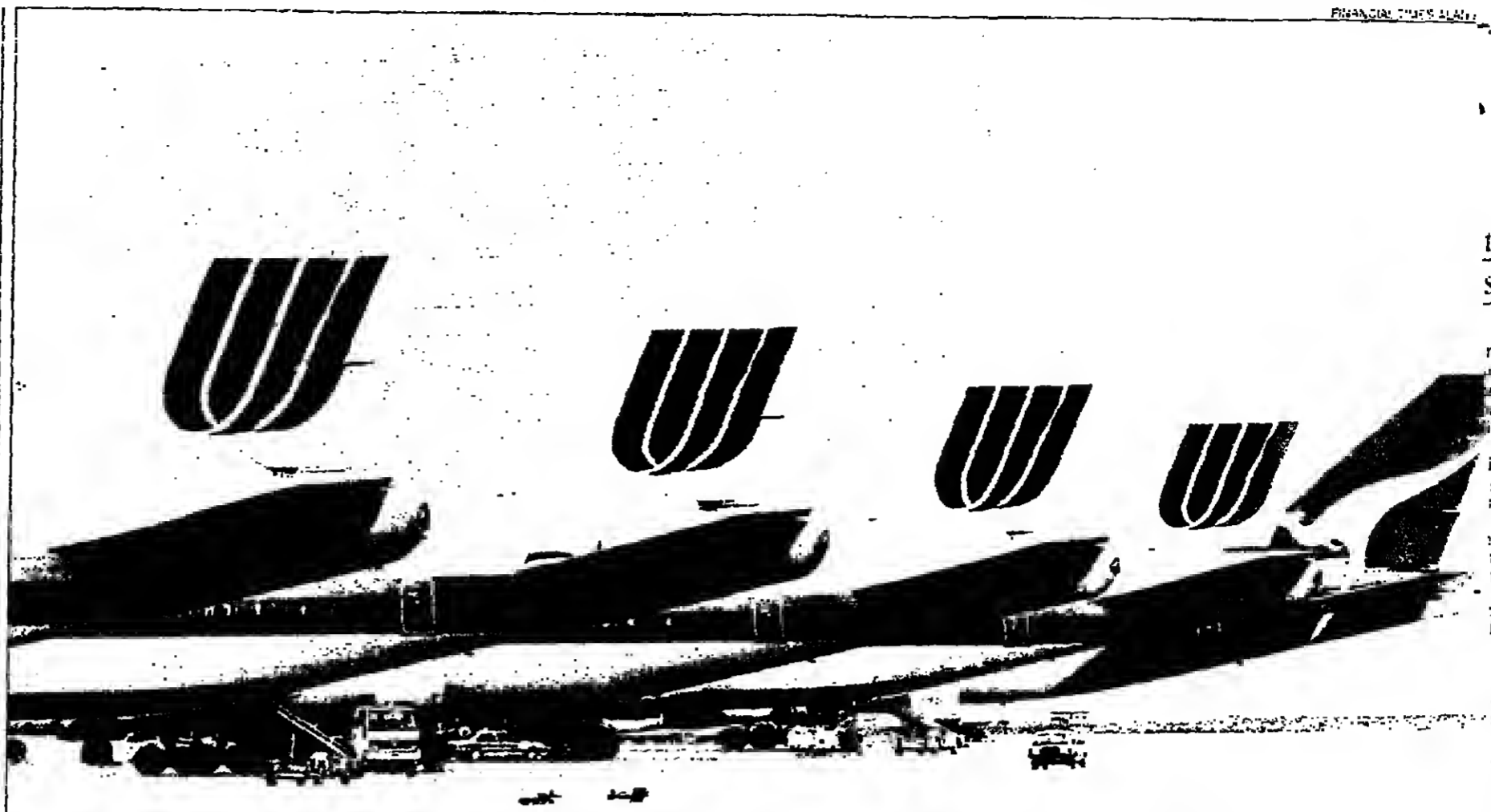
But all is not lost. Martin Soyones, American Airlines' manager for corporate sales Europe, says carriers flagged as preferred in company travel policies can and do produce incentives for executives to adhere to policy.

Since the launch of frequent-flyer programmes some 13 years ago, most airlines have adjusted travellers' earning power and membership levels downwards, in some cases more than once. But the trend towards airline alliances means travellers can earn from more popular sources.

Recent inducements include the introduction of a British Airways Oneworld Club Card, and a Royal Bank Advantage MasterCard from American Airlines and the Royal Bank of Scotland, both offering chances to earn miles on money spent; Hertz car rental has formed a partnership with Lufthansa for Miles & More members, and Radisson Hotels Worldwide with American Express.

Some organisations already insist executives take evening flights, even if it means the company has to pay for hotel accommodation, as this will still work out cheaper than prime-time air tickets. Norman Ryan, of Halliburton Group, the oil exploration company, says: "The company uses the cheapest fares" and these generally do not attract frequent flyer benefits.

But worst of all, it is possible that the tax man cometh. In Europe, corporate benefits in kind given to employees are taxable, as owners of company cars know all too well. But few travellers declare Air Miles on their tax returns. But in Canada the authorities reassessed the incomes of two executives to take account of free airline tickets received, basing the penalty on the notional value of the free ticket. The United States Internal Revenue Service has warned people taking free holidays on accrued miles that they are liable to tax — and possibly calculated on the cost of the business trip that yielded the miles.



United Airlines is introducing a new seat on its long-haul routes which it claims is an improvement on the successful BA cradle-seat. Virgin is considering installing beds.

Airlines make a new pitch for business

Carriers are finding new ways of sending you to sleep, says David Churchill

Little more than a year after it introduced an upgraded business class cabin along with its new Boeing 777 aircraft, United Airlines is now planning to install a new CradleSeat Class on its long-haul flights. The new seats will be introduced over the next 12 months but their design owes much to the so-called "cradle seats" that BA has installed in Club World cabins.

This seat was ergonomically designed with the aim of enabling travellers to relax and sleep with the aid of electronically-controlled lumbar supports, better leg rests and "ear-flaps" on the headrest to give greater privacy. In addition, there is a movable light to provide better illumination when reading. BA's seat has tested well in flight comfort surveys this year, prompting United to emulate the design for its new seat.

"But we are adding extra features that take the seat a stage further," claims a United spokesman. "While the BA seat is designed to enable people to sleep on their backs, our seat is designed for people to sleep on their sides, which research has shown is the most usual position."

But United's new seat will still have a 49-inch seat pitch (basically the distance from one seat back to the next) while BA and American Airlines have both gone for a 50-inch pitch. American's new business-class seats being introduced this year also follow the BA cradle-seat pattern, with adjustable headrests with wings, a two-way lumbar support, and softer footrests. JAL has also just relaunched its business class, with seats at a 50-inch pitch and including

most of the features to be found in the BA design. United believes that a pitch of 49 or 50 inches makes little difference in actual seat comfort (although it gives its rivals a certain marketing edge), while Air France says its corporate passengers are happy with a 48-inch pitch. But given the similarities between business-class seats that most travelling executives can expect to experience over the next year, the airlines are trying to woo full-fare paying commercial travellers (and there are few official discounts on business fares on major carriers) by other means.

American, for example, claims to be the only transatlantic carrier offering business-class passengers individual Sony Video Walkmans to watch their in-flight films, rather than videos attached to the seats.

Food is also seen by the airlines as a key marketing weapon, especially now that they offer lighter menus and are more flexible in allowing when people can eat. BA's "raid the larder" concept, which allows business-class passengers to get their own snacks during a flight, has apparently been slow to take off on ex-Heathrow flights but proved popular on flights into the UK. American executives, it seems, are less self-conscious about changing their in-flight eating habits.

But such factors as food, films and even in-flight telephones — while considered important in business class — are still probably not enough alone to determine the choice of airline. Most executives

decide on their carrier, if they have a choice, on the schedule and flight times (direct or via a hub) as well as considering which frequent-flyer programme they are with.

Hence the importance to the major airlines of establishing global networks. United already has code-sharing links with Lufthansa and other carriers while BA and American are still awaiting regulatory approval of their proposed alliance. Delta and Virgin Atlantic also have a limited alliance, offering Delta seats on Virgin's flights to and from Heathrow.

But while the major carriers are able to forge alliances to win custom, the smaller international airlines have had to come up with added-value benefits to woo travellers away from bigger networks.

Apart from usually offering a complimentary limousine service to and from the airport, the smaller carriers have eschewed first-class cabins in

favour of an upgraded business-class product. This was first conceived by Richard Branson about 12 years ago when he introduced first-class seats at a business-class price. Virgin still has some of the bigger business seats around, with a seat pitch of about 55 to 60 inches, depending on the aircraft, and its business class (called Upper Class) service recently won an award from the readers of *Business Traveller* magazine.

Surprisingly, for a company headed by Richard Branson, Virgin Atlantic is less high profile about business-class enhancements, preferring to tinker with the service rather than go for a major overhaul every two or three years (or more often) as its larger international rivals do. But it is looking at taking another quantum leap by introducing beds.

Other airlines operating a combined business and first-

class service, at least in the size of their seats, include Continental and Air Canada, both with 55-inch seat pitches. These services offer good value for those wanting larger seats at the same price as regular business class on other airlines, although with the move towards 50-inch pitch on both BA and American, the difference is being eroded.

But the major carriers seem reluctant to move away from a first-class premium cabin, even though demand can fluctuate considerably. Flights to New York, Washington and Hong Kong, for example, generally have the strongest demand for first-class seats while less popular routes with commercial travellers usually fill first class with business class upgrades. Estimates from commercial travel agencies suggest that the overall picture in first class (taking the less busy routes along with those heavily in demand) is that only a fifth to a quarter of

business is first, however, depends on whether or not an airline sees the commercial traveller as a CIP — a commercially important person. First class is often used as a marketing weapon to encourage loyalty (the ultimate is further upgrade to Concorde on the New York route) and also popular with executive flying US carriers who often allow frequent flyer points to qualify for an upgrade. BA more likely to promote a Gold level member (and possible Silver of its Executive Club).

But for those commercial travellers who merely dabble of the premium cabins (business and first) because of the rigid travel policy of their companies, there is some hope of a more comfortable journey next year when BA carries out its long-awaited overhaul of economy. Speculation is that a better deal will be offered to full-fare paying economy passengers, along the lines of Virgin's Premier Economy.

Guests in the laptop of luxury

High-tech hotels now offer computer facilities, says Chris Lockwood

Guests at some business hotels around the world still consider themselves fortunate to find a working hairdryer in the bathroom and a bedside alarm. These items, plus the television, remain the basic concession to technology made by many hoteliers in an industry that has been slow to respond to scientific advances.

While hotels have been quick to adopt computerised reservations and accounting systems they have been reluctant to apply technology at the sharp end — in guests' rooms.

Those which have taken the high-tech plunge now offer fax facilities, dedicated telephone lines, video, CD players and even Internet links in many rooms, especially those on dedicated business floors.

Linda Richards, director of Hotel System Supply Services Limited, which handles technology for about 1,000 hotels around the world, says: "There are some business travellers who just do not want advanced data and communication services in their rooms. They prefer to use the hotel as a refuge from the working day, rather than an extension of it. Others do want such facilities but may not be familiar with the specific technology on offer. The third category is the highly computer-literate types



The traditional Lanesborough hides a high-tech system

who will invariably bring their own laptop computers with them.

Many hotels now feature automatic check-out on televisions. The idea is that guests can review their bill at any time and confirm credit-card payment at the end of their stay by pressing buttons on the remote control.

The intention is to avoid the frustration of the check-out queue on departure day. But while most guests use the review facility, they do not trust the technical payment procedure (often with good reason, judging by the numerous complaints about incorrect final billing) and end up queuing anyway just for a printed receipt.

Television is likely to remain the focal point of in-room technology, and not just to show immaculate American holidays on CNN. In future, television will allow telecon-

ferencing as well as interactive shopping, movie selection and hotel service, features already available. Keeping pace with technology is difficult for the industry and us. Johnny Thorsen, head of information technology at Hogg Robinson Business Travel International, says that there are "so many new advances coming out that companies are nervous about investing in one which may be outdated by the time it is installed. They are all trying to make money from new technology but it should only be deployed if it adds benefit or reduces costs."

Mr Thorsen sees the next wave embracing the Internet and CD-Rom systems, as well as allowing guests access to hotel information and booking from home.

"Home booking is widely available now," he says, "but it tends to be used by leisure travellers with some time to

browse before buying. Business customers continue to rely on travel departments or specialised travel agents in order to save time and money."

London's Lanesborough Hotel, which opened in 1992, is an example of state-of-the-art technology, but its high-tech nature is largely concealed from guests and controlled by a personalised butler who also acts as the technical linchpin between guests' needs and services.

On each floor the screen in the butler's pantry shows which room is occupied or vacant, allowing him to direct housekeeping or engineering services without disturbing the guest. Room sensors enable the butler to follow guest movements, even to the point of shuffling if the bathroom light has been turned on in the middle of the night.

The sensors also control air-conditioning and heating, which is turned down to conserve energy when the guest leaves the room.

On arrival each customer gets personal business cards and stationery printed with a private telephone and fax number — twin lines, a personal line plus a fax line, are provided in each room.

Holiday Inn Worldwide has just completed testing in five hotels in Germany with multimedia television, including integrated computer software with CD player, games and Internet connections, as well as word processing, spreadsheet and fax facilities.

The test also included a second telephone line with voice mail system, plus computer data ports.

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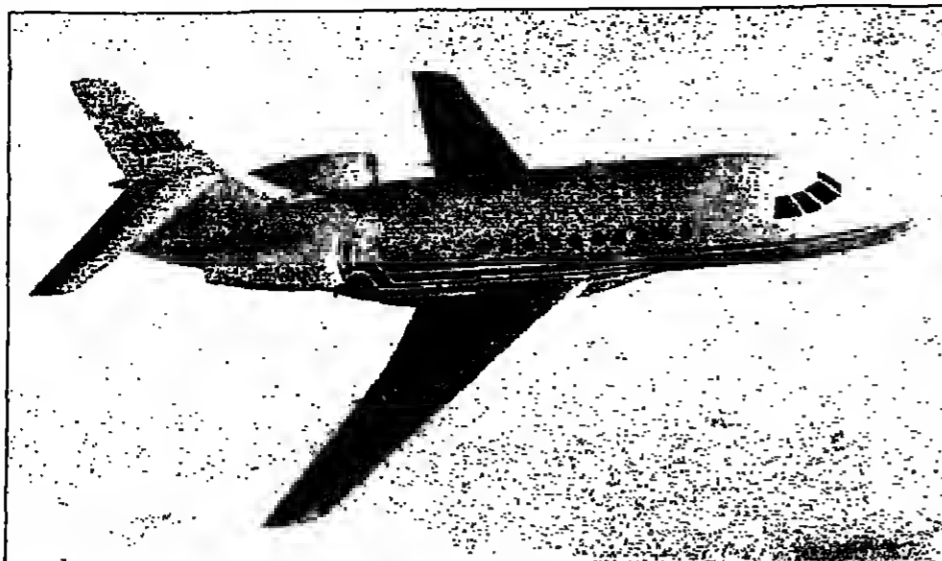
Executive jets do it faster

Perilloried as a self-indulgence — particularly in the supposedly prudent — executive jets are all disparaged as toys he boys. This is not rising as they conjure up is of the chairman disapp on a junket for a day's g — but that is far from sality.

rge multinational org- tions can justify owning all plane — or even a l fleet. For one-off trips, in h many destinations have covered in a day, charter es more sense. There is the option of jet-sharing.

oyal Dutch Shell, for ex- ic, keeps four jets at throw. According to Brian mphries, managing direc- of Shell Aircraft and chair- of the European Busi- ness Association, they are l for the worldwide trans- of senior executives. The l factors are flexibility, ing business opportuni- making possible a task i would not otherwise be- ed out, and reaching t of the world not served scheduled services.

ing example of a typical enary makes the point: a up set off from Heathrow 7.30am, reaching White ins, New York, at 8.30pm, a stop in Aberdeen. Busi- s was completed in time to ve White Plains at 5pm the t day and time differences ant the party arrived at 0pm in Wilmington. Dela- ure (there are no scheduled vices between these cities, ere it spent the night. The t arrival was at 4.30am in sterdam, where people went Shell's head office. The oup left for Heathrow an



Falcon 2000, the type of private jet chartered by senior executives for business trips

Work out the time wasted at airports, and chartering a plane starts to make sense, says Catherine Chetwynd

hour later. Mr Humphries conservatively estimates the company saved a day by using its own aircraft — and that is a day per executive.

Whether chartering for individual trips or using the company fleet, the outstanding advantage of private aircraft is flexibility. You can choose a departure time and turn up five minutes before: if you are held up, the aircraft waits. Extended check-in times, customs queues and the longer flying time on commercial aircraft make many itineraries impossible without one or two nights' accommodation. Add the cost of keeping captains of industry sitting at airports and the expense of overnight accommodation, and air taxis start to make

sense. Government departments have also recognised the strengths of executive jets; a joint report from the Departments of Transport and Trade last year concluded: "insufficient capacity for business aviation use in the South East will have a potentially adverse impact upon local economies and national competitiveness".

The private aircraft charter business in the UK is worth £100 million and, according to the broker Hunt and Palmer, there has been an increase in demand for flights to Switzerland, probably because of greater activity in the City. Jamie Martin, a director, says: "There has been a trend in recent years towards

greater use of chartered aircraft in the business sector, particularly in fast-moving industries such as banking, oil exploration and automotive manufacture. Newer and more economic executive aircraft allow staff to spend time working rather than travelling."

London Executive Aviation (LEA), based at London City airport and at Stapleford in Essex, flies three types of aircraft, seating from four to ten people. Kim Wylie, head of flight operations, says the company started in 1990 with one aircraft and now has ten. The last two were purchased in the past 12 months in response to a marked upturn in business. "We come into our own

when people have to visit several places in one day," Mr Wylie says. LEA recently met a consultant from a 7.30am flight from Houston to Gatwick and transferred him to London City Airport, from where a car delivered him to the City. He and colleagues departed at noon for a meeting in Rotterdam. The meeting overran and the group did not leave Holland until 6pm, but the consultant still arrived at Gatwick at 9.30pm in time for his 10.30pm departure to Houston. The whole exercise cost £950.

Convenient local departure and arrival points are another strong argument. There may be 200 airports in Europe used by scheduled carriers, but 2,000 are available to executive aircraft.

Image apart, the biggest drawbacks to owning an executive jet are cost and efficiency. Not only is capital investment high, but dedicated aircraft are generally occupied for just 250 hours a year.

The London Jet Share Company may be the answer to this problem. LJS gives organisations the opportunity to own a half or a quarter of a Cessna Citation aircraft. In the event of all partners wanting to travel at once, aircraft will be made available. A quarter share will cost each partner £500,000 and this way, according to Mike Hamlin, managing director, you can make savings of 30 per cent.



The clock tower in Prague is becoming a familiar sight to British businessmen

Airlines boosted by Eastern trade surge

British exports to Eastern Europe were £1 billion eight years ago. Last year, the figure had quadrupled, resulting in a huge growth in demand for business travel to the region.

Four countries — Poland, Russia, the Czech Republic and Hungary — are among the UK's top 50 export markets. Lasting peace in the former Yugoslavia will mean another surge in trade.

The news that British Airways is to increase services to Eastern Europe next year reflects growing demand for improved access to the former communist-bloc countries.

In July, BA resumed flights to Belgrade, the capital of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with three flights a week. Now BA is to double the frequency to Belgrade for next summer, alongside increased departures to Bucharest, Kiev and Sofia.

British Midland, which already flies to Prague, is also targeting Budapest and Moscow as important routes. The hotel chains have responded, too: Prague, Budapest and Bucharest are bristling with international hotel names.

But the area is not cheap. In a poll of worldwide city hotel rates, Hogg Robinson rates Moscow second behind Tokyo, with average rates of £153.24. In a new booklet for clients, Hogg Robinson points out problems such as an import/export tax and the exorbitant price of telephone calls in Albania.

It is also normal practice for the price of car rental in Russia and the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, to include a chauffeur to prevent unwary or lost business travellers from being carjacked.

The pitfalls have not, of course, stopped people going. The number of UK travellers on scheduled airlines to the region grew from 1.29 million in 1994 to 1.54 million last year. Russia, the

Steve Keenan on the former communist nations with an appetite for air travel

Czech Republic and Hungary are the big attractions.

"Now that the countries are more open, people such as architects and lawyers are going," said Claudia Deutschmann of Fregata Travel, the London-based business travel agent. "But last month I also sent people to make animation films in Lithuania. Poland is also in heavy demand and business travel to Russia is still big."

Car rental in Russia includes a chauffeur to prevent carjacks

The Czech airline, CSA, started a service to Prague from Stansted this year in addition to operating out of Heathrow, while Lot, the Polish airline, increased flights to Warsaw this summer to 16 a week, three via Krakow in Poland.

New national airlines also operate direct from the UK, including Estonian Air, Riga Airlines, Ukraine International Airlines and Croatian Airlines.

All have non-stop flights, which are increasing in number. Estonian Air will have six flights a week from Gatwick to Tallinn this month, up from four a week. The airline is an example of how the proximity of Scandinavia to the Baltic

states, and the consequent trade and cultural links, has encouraged investment in fledgling airlines. The Danish carrier, Maersk, has taken a 66 per cent interest in Estonian Air and will handle its booking and sales in the UK from next year. SAS is a 29 per cent shareholder in Air Baltic, one of two airlines in Latvia that serve Gatwick.

Bjarne Hansen, the president of Maersk, said: "We believe the opportunities for Estonian Air are considerable, both regionally and on a pan-European basis and we shall be seeking to exploit these fully."

Other carriers such as Lufthansa and Austrian Airlines are looking to maximise their links to Eastern Europe, and this makes good sense for many UK business travellers. They have the choice of flying out of Heathrow or Gatwick with their limited connections — or direct to cities such as Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Frankfurt with their superior networks.

SAS, for example, has 200 flights a week to the Baltic states and Copenhagen is now an important hub to the East. Swissair flies to 17 cities in Eastern Europe from Zurich and Geneva.

But the biggest airline to the Eastern Europe is Lufthansa, which last month launched a marketing campaign to promote its network of 366 weekly flights to 26 cities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The airline claimed 20 per cent of all traffic departing the UK to Eastern Europe last year and expects to carry 55,000 UK travellers east this year. Its main hub airports are Munich and Frankfurt and its busiest routes are Moscow, St Petersburg, Sofia, Zagreb and Prague.

As with hotel and car rental rates, the cost is not cheap. Fares from Western to Eastern Europe rose by 6 per cent in the first quarter of 1996, according to an American Express survey.

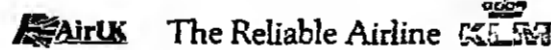
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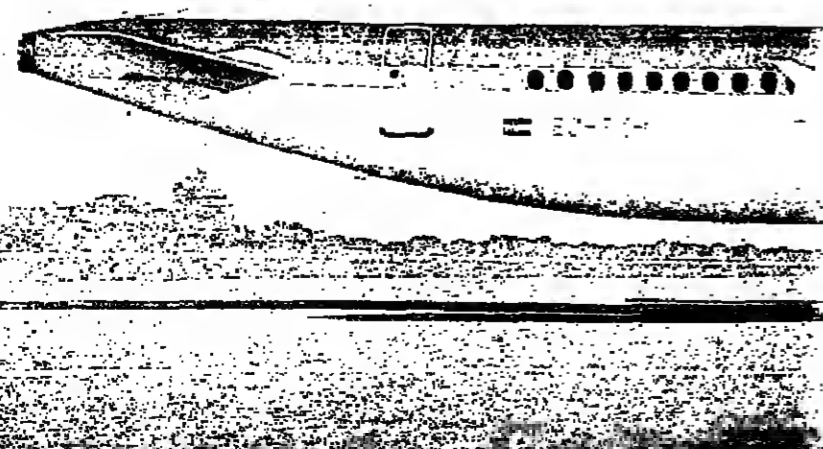


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هكذا من الأصل

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Any business traveller's fear of flying could be well-founded, says Simon Coates



A patient being treated on a Lufthansa flight. Worldwide, about 1,000 people die on flights each year — most are men in their fifties

Dangers of the high life

Business travellers, the Zeitgeist of the Nineties, are required to fly ever more frequently around the globe to promote their wares, but they still need to arrive in peak condition. Are these two requirements irreconcilable?

On the face of it they might be. Farrel Kahn, medical author and director of the recently founded Aviation Health Institute, argues that the physiological hardships of flying can make it mortally uncomfortable.

"Worldwide, about 1,000 deaths occur on flights annually. And the number of post-flight deaths may be as much as four times higher," he says. "The principal victims are men in their fifties." Those men comprise the most numerous group among regular premium flyers.

because deep vein clots are becoming more common among all ages. "Once on board, ensure that your leg-rest is in the horizontal position. That helps to boost circulation. And every hour either move around the aircraft or simulate the walking action in your seat."

Why should all this be necessary? After all the leading airlines invest many millions of pounds on the in-flight comfort of their most valuable customers; high seat-occupancy levels matter more there than in the less palatial confines of the main cabin; and, as the grounding of many senior executives during the Gulf War demonstrated, creature comforts for frequent flyers can, if unused, quickly become an airline's liability if they are not its principal earner.

But the body's reaction to physical realities on board cannot be obscured by any amount of personal attention. The humidity level in the cabin atmosphere, for example, can be a key factor. Mr Kahn says: "The average room has relative humidity of between 40 per cent and 60 per cent, but a fully-laden aircraft will achieve only half that level and on flights with fewer passengers it can fall to as low as 2 per cent. To counteract the effects of this, enhance the moisture levels in the blood: sip still water or black tea, but avoid coffee."

Similarly, executives should resist the temptation to indulge in exotic fare, opting instead for light meals and non-alcoholic drinks. You may feel more relaxed with a dram, but the effect can be to neutralise the brain cells, making you feel particularly uncomfortable.

And rather than dosing up for a snifter-induced nap, business travellers would do better to wrap themselves in a blanket and exhaust themselves with the opening chapters of the latest management guru's bestseller.

Travellers will soon find they are ready to close their eyes, don their eye masks, insert their wax earplugs, place a cushion in the small of the back to prevent direct pressure against the seat and rest their heads on a feather pillow they have brought from home," he says. "They can then set their seat in the maximum tilt position and look forward to some rest."

But what about the sneezing and coughing contagion from a few seats away? Many assume the recirculating cabin air means a lingering bug could ruin the whole trip.

In fact, as Boeing engineers point out, today's aircraft have "much better filtration, a much higher air-change rate and a much higher proportion of outside air". Still, eucalyptus oil applied to the nasal area should protect the traveller from germs and ensure that the Zeitgeist stays comfortably airborne.

How best to combat stress, then? These seasoned travellers listed sleeping, sex and alcohol. So it is not just work after all.

CHRISTOPHER WARMAN

Stress and travel rage

A survey of British directors who are regular business travellers shows that the majority suffer stress-related symptoms, both physical and mental. Symptoms include memory loss and violent behaviour, with one third suffering from road rage.

In what amounts to travel rage, 61 per cent claim they suffer physically, with fatigue and aching limbs the most common symptoms, and 39 per cent state that they suffer emotionally or mentally. A small number (15 per cent) admit to violent tendencies, the same number suffer memory loss, and a few suffer paranoia.

the transport services. The most frequent complaints about international travel are flight delays and missing luggage, while the main objection in domestic travel is other drivers. But the hotel industry does not escape criticism, with complaints about lack of cleanliness and double-booked rooms.

Dr Antony Ashe, a London GP, says: "There is increasing awareness throughout the medical profession of the detrimental effects of stress caused by business travel, and yet little is being done to evaluate the impact. Stress can be damaging in many ways: it can cause a reduction in sperm count; an elevation of the cortisone level which may reduce the effectiveness of the immunity system; and can lead to increased blood pressure."

"The growing availability of mobile phones and laptop computers make it harder for businessmen and women to switch off and relax. Business executives who continue to work when travelling may feel they are accomplishing something, yet the long-term effects from not switching off may be counter-productive."

A boardroom for high-flyers



Surf while you wait to fly: Heathrow Internet centre

THERE is no escape for the businessman at Heathrow Airport. The executive club lounges provide most of the facilities needed for a quick piece of work while waiting for departure, but if they cannot provide everything, then the Business Centre, situated in the Queen's Building, certainly can.

The centre, part of the Thomas Cook Group, provides meeting and conference rooms offering the latest technology and services.

"We have considered every possible requirement for the busy executive travelling worldwide," a spokeswoman explains. "With this in mind,

A conference for 60 people?

Heathrow has the facilities

the centre has a range of meeting rooms to cater for any size of meeting and comprehensive office, secretarial and catering facilities. In addition we have a conference room that can accommodate up to 60 delegates, with the latest presentation equipment."

Its latest innovation is a Cybercafe and Internet Centre, claimed to be the first

such facility to be installed at an airport when it opened in May this year. Providing access to the World Wide Web, it offers a full range of Internet services, allowing surfers to review world markets, catch up on news, e-mail colleagues — or even relax with a game.

Jane Chadburn, centre manager, explains: "Having access to up-to-date information and being able to communicate through online technology is becoming increasingly important to people on the move. This initiative enables the 40,000 travellers who use the centre each year to make even more efficient use of their time."

This is your captain. Anyone for chess?

Air passengers are now spoilt for choice over inflight entertainment — if it works. Chris Lockwood reports

Entertainment in the early days of aviation was largely limited to chatting, reading or predictable games of "I spy" (something beginning with C — cloudy).

Now passengers have the choice of more than 24 channels of films and news, destination information, interactive shopping, video games and airborne gambling.

Additionally, those once content to leave the working world behind for a few hours are now surrounded by telephone and fax reminders that they are still in global touch with business on the ground.

Having reconstituted both engine control and flight deck systems, new technologies has declared the passenger seat the next high ground.

The World Airline Entertainment Association estimates that more than \$1 billion will be spent by airlines this year on in-flight entertainment and passenger communication. This follows \$1.5 billion spent in the past 18 months. Even more investment is anticipated for 1997 as carriers battle for passenger loyalty with increasingly sophisticated in-seat systems designed to amuse, entertain and enable them to work in the air.

By 2005 a total of 2.4 billion passengers is expected aloft each year, and those with access to new electronic entertainment and information systems will increase from today's 23 per cent to as much as 60 per cent of the total. This could mean up to 120 million people per month consuming these new media in the sky.

Already more than 20 aircraft are flying with the latest interactive systems on board which, in addition to standard entertainment, offer the chance to play games such as chess, backgammon or Nintendo, and the ability to make car hire, hotel or onward airline bookings, pay for extra films, follow live news or sports events, track the global stock markets, hook up a laptop computer, or view the sky through external cameras.

The existing system, available in all three classes, offers 22 video and ten audio channels plus a selection of ten Nintendo games.

Handsets in each seat activate individual bin screens. Turn the remote control over and a telephone unit is available with a credit card swipe facility allowing passengers to call anywhere in the world from their seat via satellite.

The enormous investment by airlines is justified by the promise of revenue generated by pay-per-view, shopping, gambling and telephone charges. Yet that promise is hamstrung by a human reality — the appetite for such systems and the use of in-flight business equipment are in decline.

Duncan Hillary, chief executive of Spafax Airline Network, which supplies software and revenue-generating systems to nearly 50 airlines (including Singapore, Cathay,

market share can mean much as \$50 million a year airline revenue," he said. "A competing passenger layer with top cabin entertainment facilities is one way of achieving that."

He warns, however, that there are many problems along the way before airlines get the right mix of content, power and reliability. GEC/Marconi recently pulled out of the market, for example, having pledged to supply both BA and United with interactive systems for their Boeing 777s. The system have failed to live up to expectations.

Failure of much-promoted systems is one of the major problems surrounding the technological advance. Even Singapore Airlines admits a failure rate of four to six seats per flight — not a bad ratio, of 400, perhaps, unless the seat is yours.

Industry experts agree that



Singapore Airlines is spending \$3.5 million per aircraft

BA, Emirates and Air Canada), explains that passengers on long-haul flights are the captive audience the airlines want, but also a passive one.

"For the first two hours or so travellers may be extremely active — working, watching, telephoning and accessing the systems," he says. "But after a while they become extremely passive — the opposite of what the airlines require for interactive technology which can make money."

Passengers become as passive as possible — they go to sleep — so all this technology is sitting there unused.

Mr Hillary believes there is a huge future for such systems, but only if the airlines consider it as a passenger service first aimed at the broader goal of increasing market share overall, rather than the short-term goal of making money per passenger per flight.

"A 1 per cent increase in

of all the technology in use on an aircraft, the in-flight entertainment system is probably the most important because it is the one the passenger can see.

Allister Cumming, BA chief operating officer, says avionic systems which are used to control, navigate or communicate for operational reasons are duplicated and triplicated and failure will often go unnoticed. But seat controls give an instant bad impression if they fail, whether it is the cabin crew call button or the on-line link to the Dow Jones Index.

Another problem affecting these new systems is passenger acceptance. Technology is changing so rapidly that a new airline entertainment system can be out of date as soon as it is installed. Passengers are lagging far behind and often do not understand — or do not wish to — the benefits available on the screen in front of them.

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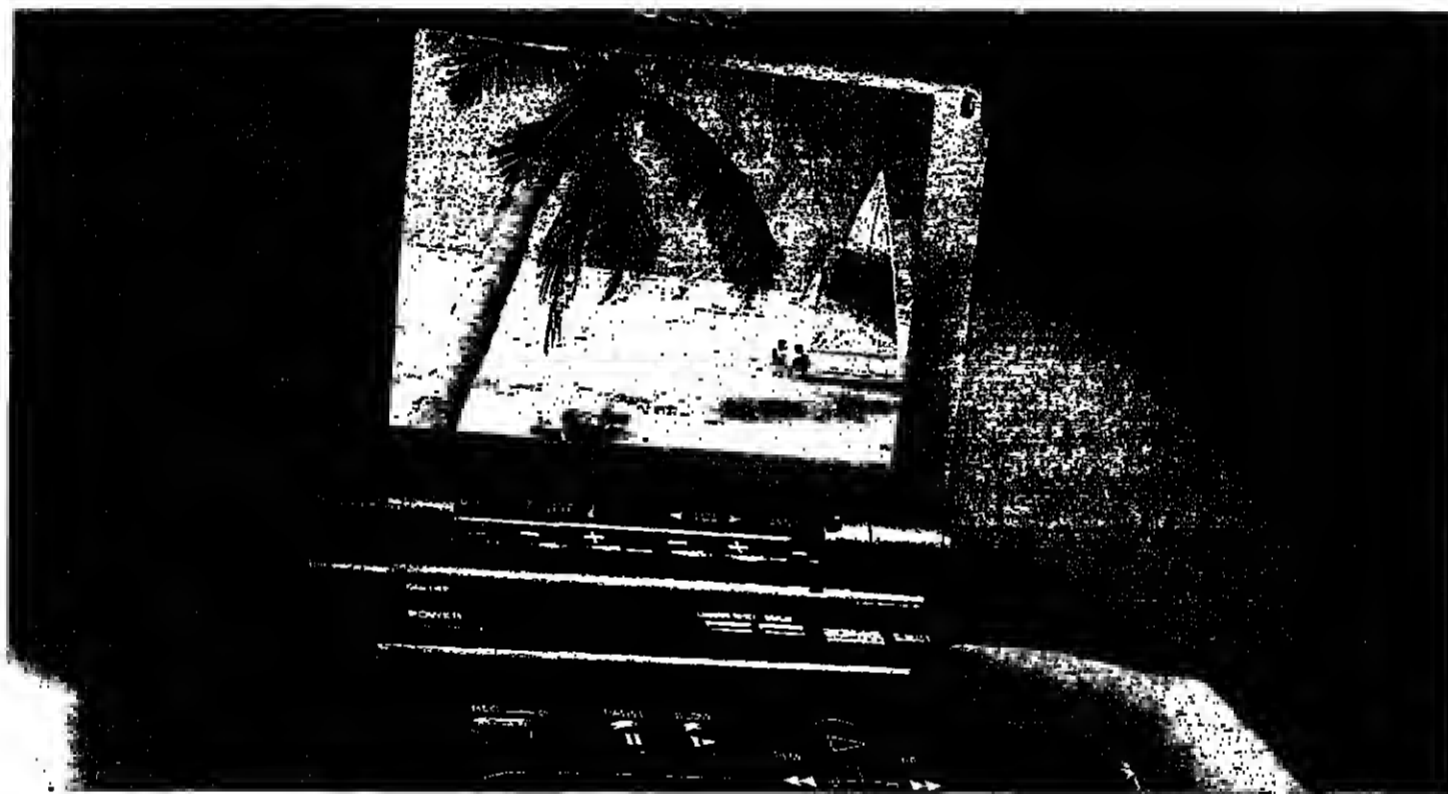
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The gentle approach to policing pensions

John Hayes, head of the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority, on the new Pensions Act

What do Arthur Scargill and the Bishop of Oxford have in common? The answer is in the contribution they have made to the law of trusts, which still underpins occupational pensions, at least in England and Wales.

Both argued unsuccessfully before the courts that political or moral considerations could override trustees' duties to obtain the best financial return for their beneficiaries, whether miners or clergymen.

The Pensions Act 1995 is a direct result of Robert Maxwell's abuse of pension funds. (Ironically the Church Commissioners lost more from property speculation.) And trustees are at the heart of the protection of occupational pensions.

At a time when the Government is resisting the movement from Europe for compulsory works councils, it has introduced new domestic law requiring occupational pension schemes to be run nevertheless by trustees, a third of whom must be chosen by the workers. There is an opt-out procedure that can be initiated only by the existing trustees or the employer. In this case the workers still have the last word.

The same legislation produces another relative novelty in our law. It creates a statutory duty on some professional advisers to report to the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (Opra) when they have reasonable cause to believe that the relevant law is being broken or that a breach of trust has been committed, if the breach is likely to be of material significance to Opra.

This is new territory for actuaries. Auditors have had similar duties under the Banking Act but it is understood that they are only rarely used. Failure to do so could lead to disqualification from the right to practise.

Such draconian powers may be regarded as hardly conducive to harmonious relations between advisers and their clients, all struggling to comply with what are basically administrative or financial requirements.

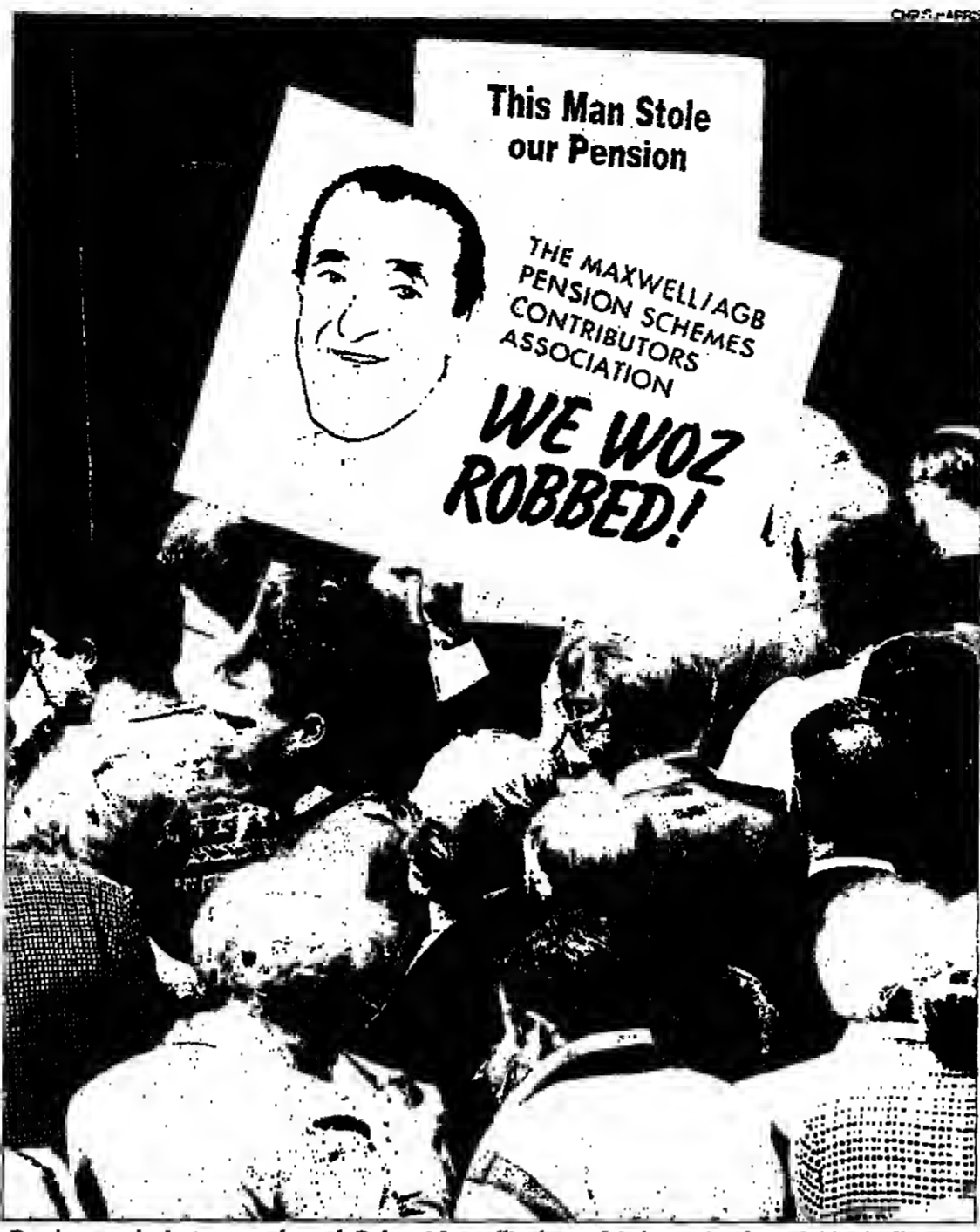
Opra is planning to inject a spirit of openness in which breaches are not treated as an automatic passport to the imposition of financial penalties or other sanctions. Instead, for minor breaches, Opra will be keener on assurances, which will be followed up, that things have been put right.

Unlike most other regulators and enforcement agencies, Opra is given the power to investigate, prosecute and sentence those who breach its rules. The courts will retain the right to quash Opra's decisions on the grounds that it has exceeded its powers or failed to follow the rules of natural justice. Opra will be able to sue in civil courts throughout the United Kingdom to recover pension assets wrongly appropriated.

The Pensions Act creates some offences enforceable by Opra. Opra will have review procedures to enable those aggrieved by its initial decisions to appeal. It will not be bound to grant oral hearings in all cases.

Fairness, expedition and a sense of proportion will all have to be shown if Parliament is not to feel that too much power has been conferred on a single agency. Though Opra is an independent legal entity, much of its affairs are controlled by the Secretary of State for Social Security, even though the bill for its operations, like that of the pensions ombudsman and the new Pensions Compensation Board, will be picked up by employers or pension schemes.

Whether Opra is successful will depend on the sensitivity and competence which it displays. Who knows what disasters are likely when it begins its operational role on April 6, 1997? Good intelligence as well as a certain amount of luck will be essential.



Pensioners who lost money through Robert Maxwell's abuse of their pension funds lobby Parliament

Leaders in pensions

LAW FIRMS are facing a huge upheaval as a result of the Pensions Act. Most of the provisions come into force next April but already firms are reporting a big rise in work. Frances Gibb writes.

All the top ten corporate firms have strong departments but according to Chambers & Partners Directory, Linklaters & Paines and Lovell White Durrant are just ahead. They are closely followed by niche firms Sacker & Partners (boosted by the recent addition of what was Nicholson Graham & Jones pensions team); Nabarro; Rowe & Maw; Freshfields; and Travers Smith Braithwaite. Others who are highly regarded include Aslop Wilkinson.

At the Bar, the leading set is said to be Wilberforce Chambers, headed by Edward Nugee, QC, Nicholas Warren, QC, was described as "head and shoulders" above the rest; Robert Ham, QC, and Paul Newman are also highly rated. Others include Michael Hart, QC, of 5 Stone Buildings and Nigel Inglis-Jones, QC, at 35 Essex Street.

Firms brace for industry upheaval

Edward Fennell on the massive changes due with the new Act

Nobody pretends that the pensions business is glamorous or exciting. But as this year's Labour Party conference showed, it is moving up the national agenda. So it is no surprise that this week's annual conference of the Association of Pensions Lawyers in Leeds will be attended by hundreds of keen solicitors. As Ken Dierden, a partner at Freshfields and the chairman of the association, puts it: "It is now acceptable to admit at dinner parties that one is a pensions lawyer."

An indication of the growth in the importance of pension law is the expansion of the association. From a few score members a decade ago, it has grown to 500, and this week's deliberations are expected to be of a high standard. As one speaker comments: "You could make or break your reputation at this event. You are presenting your ideas to an audience of your peers, who are intensively critical. To put in a weak show or make a mistake could be disastrous for one's career."

The backdrop to the conference is the Pensions Act 1995, which comes into force next year. The changes being effected are huge and the association can claim to have had a key role in shaping many of its most important provisions. Taken individually, the pensions industry accepts the good sense of most of these developments. When viewed altogether, though, the effect is to create the need for huge change. As Robert West, of Baker & McKenzie, points out: "There is feeling in the industry that the regulations are too detailed. Some people consider that the impact of them will be overwhelming."

The background to the Act, of course, is the skulduggery to which pension funds have been subjected. Well-publicised cases of pensions mis-selling and the abuse of funds have led to tighter regulations, and trustees are being forced to seek detailed advice from lawyers to cope with the changes. One point that trustees will need to review in the next few months is who gives them their legal advice — a move that could lead to a reshuffling of clients.

Stuart James, of Rowe & Maw and the doyen of the pensions scene, expects both to lose some clients and to gain new ones. "It will," he says, "be like musical chairs, as trustees feel under some obligation to make changes. I think that all the leading pensions firms, such as ourselves and Slaughter & May, Freshfields and Sacker & Co, are likely to be affected."

Many of the largest law firms have strong pensions departments as an annex to their normal corporate work. Smaller firms draw in clients specifically because of their pensions expertise. It is anyone's guess at this stage which will do better out of next year's possible shake-out.

Also shaping the Pensions Act are social trends that may affect everyone. A divorced wife will be entitled to a share of her former husband's pension and there is a shift away from occupational pension schemes as fewer employees stay with the same organisation all their working lives and many become self-employed.

To put in a weak showing could be disastrous

Company Secretary

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For further information in complete confidence please write to Jonathan Brenner or Lisa Hicks at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail jonathan@zmb.co.uk This assignment is being handled exclusively by ZMB and all direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them.

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Businesses in the North East have many of Britain's specialist lawyers right on their doorstep, Edward Fennell reports

Shining northern lights

Businesses in the North East are spoilt for choice when it comes to selecting commercial lawyers. It is not just that there are high quality lawyers — almost every region can claim that these days. More important is the fact that there are three legal centres — in Sheffield, Leeds and Newcastle — and there are firms which can claim to be national leaders in specialist fields.

Selecting a single market leader is impossible, especially when Leeds has spawned both Dibb Lupton Alsop and Hammond Sudards, two of the most dynamic firms in Britain. But if you are looking for a firm which is distinctively special, then the prize might be awarded to the Sheffield-based Irwin Mitchell. Under the leadership of Michael Napier, it achieved a remarkable reputation as disaster lawyers *par excellence* and, with Howard Culley as managing partner, that reputation is being sustained.

The firm has achieved notable success in multi-plaintiff work in connection with asbestos and is also the recognised leader in cases of Crutfield-Jacob disease. Moreover, the firm has the services of Kevin Robinson, a master of business crime. When Alan Clark blew the whistle in the "arms to Iraq" trial, it was largely as a result of research by Mr Robinson.

In addition to this exceptional

track record in high-profile cases, Irwin Mitchell is also bubbling along in mainstream areas such as property, mergers and acquisitions, commercial litigation and private client work. As Mr Culley says: "We are very buoyant in every department — you can't single out any area which is doing better than the rest."

Irwin Mitchell was rather later in the field than its Yorkshire rivals to expand geographically, but it is moving now. As well as offices in London and Birmingham, it has a strong presence in Leeds — and that is really taking war into the enemy's camp.

Leeds prides itself on being Britain's second business centre after London. Certainly, its law firms have been exceptionally strong, with Booth & Co. alongside Dibbs and Hammonds as a very home-grown operation. The local offices of Eversheds and Pinsent Curtis are also highly regarded.

What makes Booth & Co. different is that it has persisted in its independence, although it is a member of the Norton Rose M5 group. It is the future of that group which is now exercising the mind of Mark Jones, the managing partner of the firm. "You either have to keep

on developing, or you decline," he says. "In Norton Rose M5, we must now decide where we are going next. It has either to evolve or decline — I hope it evolves."

Eversheds' local offices, both in Leeds and further north, are demonstrations of how successful a "national" firm can be. Its landmark project is the work it is undertaking for the International Centre for Life, a £54 million initiative being funded by the National Lottery to provide a remarkable tourism and educational focus for Tyneside. The centre will supply a "gene dome, body and mind" facility, as well as a bio science village and it represents the resurgence of the Tyne as a centre for innovation.

Smaller in scale but also significant is work that Eversheds has been doing in the area of private finance initiative (PFI). This is a speciality in which the firm nationally takes pride, and its work with Tynemouth College, which has "Pathfinder" status, and the backing of the Further Education Funding Council illustrates how PFI is starting to produce positive results.

Eversheds also acts for the Tyne & Wear Development Corporation and has snapped up a number of

transactions which, in the past, might have gone down in London.

Perhaps in the most tantalising position is Dickinson Dees. As the largest firm of solicitors in Newcastle, it enjoys a certain distinction. However, Newcastle does not have the commercial muscle to compare with Leeds or Manchester and its remoteness means that there are few plus it could draw on as natural clients.

However, John Flynn, the business development partner, enjoys the fact that the firm has now gained a national reputation, especially in the field of transport. Britain's second and third largest bus companies are among its clients. It is also doing work for Siemens and Samsung in connection with their inward investment in the area.

Many of the existing smaller family-run Tyneside companies, meanwhile, go to Robert Muckle for their legal advice. Tough and gritty as solicitors, Hugh Welch, the firm's commercial partner, says: "I suspect that we are viewed with suspicion, distrust and even dislike by some of the firms on Tyneside, but we believe in giving clients what they want and for us it has produced results. With increased profits of 170 per cent between 1991 and 1995, we must be doing something right."



Law firms in Leeds have gained national acclaim with exceptionally strong showings in court

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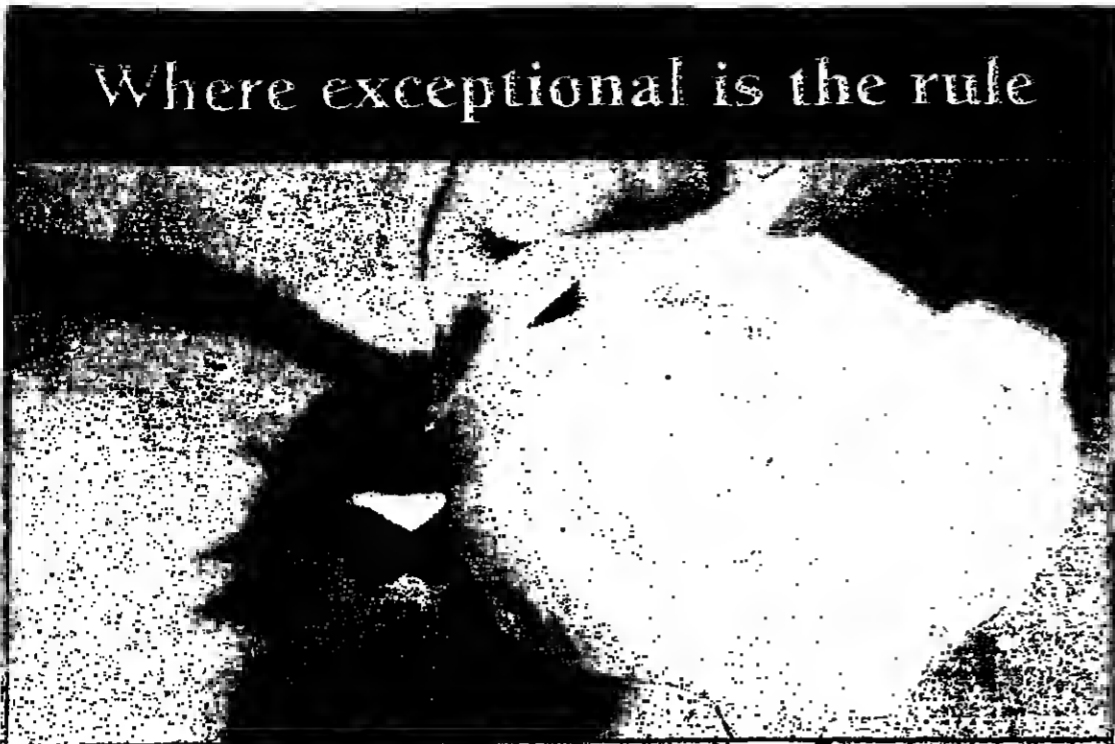
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NEW LAW JOURNAL

IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE:

"Conditional fees - the litigator's high wire act" Iain Goldstein shows the way forward

Arnold Rosen calls for more openness from the Law Society's Compensation Fund

"Working from Home" Susan Singleton shares the experience

"The Traps of Insuring Against Crime on



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- * Settled a libel action very profitably at the Court Door for one of Britain's best loved footballers
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NOTARIES PUBLIC COURT OF FACULTIES EXAMINATION JANUARY 1997
The next examination for those seeking appointment as a Notary Public in England and Wales is to be held in London on 6th January 1997. Applicants who are solicitors are required to take part IV of the examination consisting of papers on 'Notarial Practice' and 'Bills of Exchange'. Full details of the syllabus, suggested reading list and also the method of appointment are available (by postal application only) from: The Registrar, The Court of Faculties, 1 The Sanctuary, Westminster, London SW1P 3JT. DX 2301 VICTORIA.

هكذا من الأصل

Court of Appeal

Accountants protected as officers

Mutual Reinsurance Co Ltd v Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co and Another. Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Thorpe. Judgment October 11.

making a claim against the defendants, their statutory auditors, alleging they were negligent in failing to detect that money which should have been retained by the plaintiff was, as a result of fraud, retained by certain Lichtenstein and German companies.

officers of a company and would be if they had been appointed as such. Both sections 88 and 281 of the Companies Act were drafted taking into account such distinction.

appointed they would not be officers. Both sections 88 and 281 of the Companies Act were drafted taking into account such distinction.

Komari v Jalal. Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Thorpe. Judgment 25 July.

Mr Courman Gill for Mrs Komari. LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the present case demonstrated the care which had to be taken before orders for committal for contempt of court were made.

if no date for compliance was inserted in the order, then a committal order could not be made. It was also apparent from Order 45, rule 5(3) that, if an alternative way of complying with the order was given to the person against whom the order was made, then that was not an order which could be enforced by committal.

Danechewsky v Danechewsky (No 2) [1977] 13 SJ 786. CA (Civil Transcript No 416 of 1977). It was made clear in that case that where there was an order which had a time fixed for compliance, as one must have if there was to be a committal order at all, and there was non-compliance, then that was a single offence.

Blanket order unsatisfactory

Burgess v Stratton. Before Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Otton. Judgment October 5.

positional for a further three months to allow the plaintiff an opportunity of making a hearing date requested within that period.

whether it was arguable, especially in the light of the inherent ambiguity of such a direction, that the judge was wrong to construe it as capable of one meaning in the context in which it was made.

However, bylaw 118, providing for the appointment of auditors, provided that auditors shall be appointed and their duties shall be defined in accordance with the Companies Act...

Resources rationed. Regina v Brent and Harrow Health Authority, Ex parte Harrow London Borough Council.

guard to the resources available to them, for the purpose of the exercise of their function under the National Health Service Act 1977, it is not reasonable for them to comply.

regard to the resources available to them, for the purpose of the exercise of their function under the National Health Service Act 1977, it is not reasonable for them to comply.

in respect of a child for whom special education provision was made was set out in section 168 of the 1983 Act.

Council duty not delegable

Regina v Harrow London Borough Council, Ex parte M. The obligation on a local education authority under section 168 of the Education Act 1983 to arrange that special education provision be made for a child was not delegable.

It was ruled personally to the child and it was not by section delegable. It was the duty of the authority itself to arrange that the provision was made.

under powers conferred in section 168 of the 1983 Act, the authority requested help and such was provided, to that extent alone, the authority was making the arrangement required by the statement.

Touchless assault. Regina v Sargeant. There was no need for there to be indecent touching, or the threat of such touching, for an act to constitute the offence of indecent assault.

The Council of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Hutchison, Mr Justice Douglas Brown and Mr Justice Curran) so held on August 19, when dismissing an appeal against conviction by Anthony David Sargeant on February 29, 1996 at Preston Crown Court (Judge Andrew QC and a jury) of the offence of indecent assault contrary to section 5(1) of the Sexual Offences Act 1956.

LORD JUSTICE HUTCHISON said that the appellant's principal ground of appeal was that for there to be an indecent assault in law there had to be indecent touching, or at least the threat of indecent touching, and that in this instance there was no such touching or threat of touching.

The prosecution's case was that the appellant had compelled the complainant, a boy aged 16, to commit an indecent act in a public place.

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GOLF

US forces in bid to stop Els ruling at Wentworth

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IT IS going to be very hard for Ernie Els to get through another Toyota World Match Play Championship without being beaten. He might have managed this in 1994 and 1995, but there is extra pressure on him now as he tries to win a third consecutive title, which no one has done before.

Tom Lehman, the reigning Open champion, if Mickelson beats him he will find Steve Jones, the US Open champion, waiting.

Stricker could easily be one of those golfers described as "my baby-faced chicken kill-

The last part of this statement was a thinly veiled reference to the row between Mickelson and Jarmo Sandelin in the Dunhill Cup semi-final against Sweden.

DRAW

08.15 and 12.30: (S) S Eganagh (S) S Sheehy (S) S. Winner to play (1) E. E. (S) S. 08.30 and 12.45: (1) Wootton (S) S. (S) S. (S) S. Winner to play (1) S. (S) S. 08.45 and 13.00: (S) P. Mickelson (S) S. (S) S. (S) S. Winner to play (1) S. (S) S. 09.00 and 13.15: (S) S. (S) S. (S) S. (S) S. Winner to play (1) S. (S) S. 13.30 and 13.45: (S) S. (S) S. (S) S. (S) S. Winner to play (1) S. (S) S.



John Cordall attempts to hack out of the rough on the 10th at Breadsall Priory but his team, J Howitt, finished down the field, collecting 80 points

Jaguar make their point in record fashion

By MEL WEBB

A SMALL piece of history in The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge was enacted at Breadsall Priory Golf & Country Club yesterday when the record score for a regional final in the competition was picked up, shaken about a bit then smashed into thousands of small pieces.



performance in their home county, Hall and Coaker went on to win the national final for the second time in three years — the omens are good for the men from Jaguar.

ers" by Dave Marr when he captained the United States in the 1981 Ryder Cup at Walton Heath. Chief of these was Larry Nelson, who won every match he played. Stricker fits comfortably into that category of Marr's for the way he looks 'I', rather than '2', and the ruthless manner in which he defeated his five opponents last week. His last round, against Grant Waite, of New Zealand, in Sunday afternoon's final, was his lowest of the week, a 67.

Mark O'Meara and Phil Mickelson, Stricker's victors' team-mates at St Andrews, face Nobuo Serizawa, of Japan, and Vijay Singh, of Fiji, respectively, if O'Meara defeats Serizawa, he will meet

FOR THE RECORD

Table with multiple columns listing sports results: BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, BOWLS, FOOTBALL, HOCKEY, GOLF, CRICKET, POOLS FORECAST, and DRAW. Each section contains names of teams and players along with their respective scores and results.

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a Robert Sheehan Bridge Correspondent column. It discusses bridge games, strategies, and mentions 'Dealer North' and 'Game all'. It includes a small diagram of a bridge hand.

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

This is a Raymond Keene Chess Correspondent column. It discusses chess games, strategies, and mentions 'White: Zoltan Almasi' and 'Black: Anatoly Karpov'. It includes a small diagram of a chess board.

BY PHILIP HOWARD

This is a Philip Howard Word-Watching column. It discusses various words and phrases, including 'NYCTOPHONIC', 'BAVARDAGE', 'LIMACEOUS', 'DEBLATERATE', and 'VOLLEYBALL'. It includes a small diagram of a word search.

BY RAYMOND KEENE

This is a Raymond Keene Winning Move column. It discusses chess moves and strategies, including 'White to play' and 'Black has tried to compensate for his pawn deficit'. It includes a small diagram of a chess board.

TENNIS

Henman on course to clash with Rusedski

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TIM HENMAN and Greg Rusedski are on course to meet in the second round of the Czech indoor tournament in Ostrava this week. Henman yesterday overpowered Nicolas Pietrangola of Sweden, 7-6, 6-4 in his first-round match and, if Rusedski beats George Bastl, a qualifier from Switzerland, tomorrow, he will play the British No.1 for the first time in almost a year.

The last time they met in competition was the final of the British national championships in Telford last November when Henman won 6-0, 6-2. At that time, Rusedski was the British No.1 and expected to win. Should the pair meet again now, though, Henman, ranked 29th in the world and the No.7 seed for the Czech event, would start favourite.

However, Rusedski, whose world ranking slumped from an all-time high of 33 in January to 84 two weeks ago, has been in outstanding form during the past fortnight. He began his recovery by reaching the semi-final of the Heineken Classic in Singapore ten days ago, a performance which saw his ranking improve nine places to 75.

He then won his first ATP Tour event since changing his allegiance from Canada to Britain last year when he beat Martin Damm, of the Czech Republic, in the final of the Beijing Open on Sunday. As a result, his ranking had soared a further 22 places to 53 when the latest list was issued yesterday.

Answers on page 50

Ready and waiting for the lights to change



Andrew Longmore on a driver whose short cut to the top became a long and winding road

Most racing drivers face the demons in their sport at some stage of their careers. Rarely does the confrontation occur as starkly or as prematurely as it did for Allan McNish.

McNish was just 20 when his Formula 3000 Lola collided with the Jordan of Emanuele Naspetti and cartwheeled into the crowd in the early laps of the Gold Cup at Donington Park. A week later, bruised and confused, the Scotsman hailed as the next Jackie Stewart attended the funeral of the spectator who was killed in the accident.

Not even sitting at the wheel of a racing car for the first time a month later — and winning the race — required the sort of courage McNish showed that day. "I just thought it was the right thing to do," he said.

Through the process was long and painful, McNish has rationalised the events of April 23, 1990. He cannot really tell you how or exactly where in his mind the images now lie. It is just part of him, part of his story and his life.

"I don't think anyone could go through an event like that and not change, not have their understandings, their life changed in some way and, to be honest, I don't think it would have made any difference whether I was 20, 25 or 55. I had to understand things that some people, thankfully, never have to look at in their lives," he said.

"I can never forget what happened. I don't think anyone should ever forget. You can't just say: 'It hasn't happened' and decompartmentalise it. It was something I didn't understand and I had to think very hard to try to understand it."

McNish's success in coming to terms with tragedy is there for all to see. He talks with dignity and eloquence about the accident, never dropping into cliché or self-pity.

If his mind is older than his 26 years, his face is as young and chipper as when he first gave notice of his talent in Formula Ford nine years ago. British kart champion three times, he won the Vauxhall Lotus series, finished second in the Formula Three championship and was showered with young driver awards. Delightfully, nearly a decade on, he still describes himself as "up and coming".

In a sport where the past tense is invoked with indecent haste, McNish has been up and coming since the day he put on his Marlboro world championship team overalls and took what seemed like the short cut to the summit of Formula One. It has proved a long and winding road and no



McNish can still contemplate a bright future for himself in Formula One, should the right opportunity come along

end is yet in sight. Marlboro peted claims became stage whispers. The next Jackie Stewart became the next shooting star, not as good as people thought.

McNish admits that his early progress had been easy, too easy perhaps. He never had to hustle for a drive. He knocked on doors instead of putting his foot in and leaving it there. Somehow the driver that his talent deserved never came his way and David Coulthard, a fellow Scot and regular rival, leaptfrogged over him into a seat at Williams.

"All the hype really flowed over my shoulders at the time," McNish said. "I didn't think about it much because I was enjoying my racing too much. I wanted to be in Formula One, still do if the opportunity comes along."

Formula One has a shorter memory than the public. It's frustrating at times because I could do a stronger job than some drivers on the grid right now, never having raced in Formula One. But it's difficult to try to change the system."

Unless, of course, you have a few million pounds in your back pocket, brought up in Dumfries, where his father

owns the local BMW franchise. McNish had a comfortable upbringing, but driving was still his living not some expensive hobby.

Ironically, McNish has covered more miles in a Formula One car than most on the grid, testing for McLaren and Benetton. But, unlike Coulthard, or the new world champion, Damon Hill, both Williams test drivers, the dice have yet to fall his way. So where did it all go wrong?

"I wouldn't say it's all gone wrong," he said, picking his words carefully. "It's not all gone right because drivers I've competed against successfully are in Formula One and I'm not. I don't think I'm a special force. If I was 36, I'd have to agree that it didn't quite happen for me, but there's a lot out there yet to do."

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"At 26, I have got a better understanding of Formula One, of IndyCar racing, of the way life works. I think experience of life helped Damon when he got his chance and it would be the same with me. When I was younger, I was driving on automatic pilot. I happened to be quicker than others, but it just came naturally. I've got more experience now, more technical knowledge and can make better use of the raw speed."

If that sounded like a job plea, no one could blame McNish, who has had tentative offers from Formula One teams but nothing competitive. He is looking to further his career in IndyCar racing, where opportunities abound. He is testing in the United States this week. Two successful years across the Atlantic, then back into a competitive Stewart team. The next Jackie Stewart driving for the last one. That would complete a neat circle.

"A lot of people have said recently that I am due a break. But I don't think anyone is owed anything," McNish said. "Certainly, things have not run for me as well as they could have done, but if I was forced to give up tomorrow I would still be proud of my speed and my ability. I would just be a little disappointed I hadn't been able to show them off in the way I felt I could."

Three years ago, he was a junior tennis champion. Today, he is a student

RADIO CHOICE

No longer the weaker sex

Geosling en España. Radio 4 (FM) 10.00am. Biologically, Ray Geosling has to own up to being weaker than a woman in the second of his reports on contemporary Spanish life. "Are you ready to have a baby?" he is asked by Enrique, a bachelor. "Are you ready to have a baby?" he is asked by Enrique, a bachelor. "Are you ready to have a baby?" he is asked by Enrique, a bachelor.

Opportunity Knocked. Radio 2, 9.00pm. Su Pollard, the comedy actress who links this feature about television and radio talent contests, says she once lost out to a singing dog whose master made it perform by doing something that nice people don't talk about. She would have come out on top if there had been a don't talk about. She would have come out on top if there had been a don't talk about.

RADIO 1

8.30am Mark Radcliffe, includes Newsbeat 9.00 Simon Mayo, and the Golden Hour 12.00 Lisa Aronson, includes 12.30pm-12.45 Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session, with Jo Whalley. Features Sky from Stuart Pearce in conversation and more from Gene and Tiger in session 9.00 Cling Film with Mark Karmode and Mary Anne Hobbs 10.30 John Peel 12.00 Clara Sanjurjo 4.00am Chw Warren, with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Martin Kahner 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Vincent Harrison 12.00 Melodie Show 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Chris Sene 7.00 Hayes Over Brain 8.30 The Elephant Man (8) 9.00 Opportunity Knocked, Ses Crecs 10.00 The Sexes Tale (8) 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden, incl 1.30 Pause for Thought 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports incl at 5.45 Wake Up to Wogan 6.00 The Breakfast Programme incl at 6.55, 7.55 Racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, with Orian Mitchell 12.00 Midday with Miki 2.05pm Race on Five, incl the guest of the day 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20 Sports Bulletin 7.25 The Tuesday Match, with Mark Pougatch 10.05 News 11.00 Night News 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Anna Rasmussen 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Dwellings, with Peter Dinkley 7.00 Muz Day's Sportszone 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, includes Victoria (Magical Forest, 1971), and to Paul Spicer, director of the First Singers, about the importance of singing in tune in 1945. Scott Ralferty talks to Timothy Allen and Donald Doherty, co-artistic directors of the Two Cathedrals Festival in London

ICE HOCKEY

Panthers take action over injury to Olsen

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

OFFICIALS at Nottingham Panthers, angry at the allegedly strong-arm tactics adopted by Cardiff Devils in their Superleague encounter on Saturday, yesterday took the unusual step of sending a video of the match to the league's disciplinary body.

The Midlands team were particularly concerned about an incident in which Darryl Olsen, their Canadian defenceman, was apparently struck from behind and had to be revived by Jack Hardcastle, the Panthers' president. Olsen was unable to train yesterday.

A Panthers spokesman said: "We hope they [the Superleague] take the necessary action. They have the power to award supplementary penalties."

A total of 145 minutes of disciplinary penalties were handed out during the match in Nottingham, which the Devils won 7-3.

The Devils were unable to maintain their winning form on Sunday, however, going down to a 3-2 home defeat as Manchester Storm recorded their first win in the Superleague.

Sheffield Steelers had a weekend away from Superleague action as they hosted group C of the European Cup. They won all three of their games easily but their coach, Alex Dampier, made it clear that it was not necessarily valid preparation for the next round, in Finland next month, which would be a big step up in class.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 49
NYCTOPHONIC (c) Able to give voice only by night, in contradistinction to the dog that did nothing in the night in Sherlock Holmes's Silver Blaze, from the Greek *nyx*, night, and *phōnē*, a voice. Applicable to the neighbourhood dog that remains miraculously silent all day but becomes remarkable voluble after midnight.
DEBLATERATE (b) To babble. "Right — no more apologies? The minutes of the previous meeting agreed? Okay, then, should we move on to Agenda Item One? And let the debilitation begin."
BAVARDAGE (a) Foolish or empty chatter, of the sort that is broadcast interminably and non-stop on radio phone-ins and television chat shows. This constant, glibbling miasma of bavarage cannot be good for the intellectual or psychic health of the nation. Bavarage attracts the adjective *mere*, to contradict to words such as *balderdash* or *poppycock* also the specialities of television personalities. These attract the adjective *obscure*.
LIMACEOUS (c) Sluggish, pertaining to or connected with slugs. "Take that and in future keep your hands to yourself you limaceous endomorph."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Re1 x Kd3 2 Re2 and mate with Ne1 follows.

FREQUENCY GUIDE

RADIO 1 FM 97.8-99.8 RADIO 2 FM 88.0-90.2 RADIO 4 FM 90.2-92.4 RADIO 5 FM 92.4-94.6 WORLD SERVICE MW 660, 198 (12.45-5.55am), CLASSIC FM FM 100-102 VIRGIN RADIO FM 105.8 MW 1197, 1215 TALK RADIO UK MW 1053, 1089 Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManus.

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Animal crackers and beastly behaviour

What does a cassette tape look like when it has lodged in the intestines of a puppy? Well, fans of the critics-in-plains genre could tell you, because Vets' School started last night on BBC1, and it's just a wonder nobody thought of it before. Formula-wise, Vets' School is an excellent hybrid for popular television: follow the tribulations of nervous students (some will fail); weep for sick puppies and old blind rabbits as mood music tinkles; thrill to gut surgery in close-up. All it needs additionally is a voice-over from Michael Burk, and some brave men of the emergency services, and it could be on telly 24 hours a day.

Unintentional comedy is the surprise bonus in Vets' School, supplied by a Norwegian student called Trude - a young woman of knock-out prettiness and long blonde plait, whose academic knowledge was cheerfully charac-

terised by her teachers last night as "appalling", and whose attempts to inject a kitten left the poor mewling creature with a neck full of holes. Would her examiners fail her? Ever since the infamous sacking of the Covent Garden box office manager in *The House*, viewers have comfortably watched brutal assessments behind closed doors - in this case, ruthlessly interspersed with a confident Trude showing steps of her family in Norway, all rooting for her from the folds in funny knitted hats. I watched Trude with an unusual detachment, should we root for Trude to? (It does perhaps value kittens' necks too much?) Only time will tell.

Meanwhile there were lots of animal stories too, including guinea pigs called Robinson and Jerome. Heidi the golden retriever slipped fast into a mysterious coma, while the puppy with the cassette tape evoked the best projective weeping

of the evening, when his owner Lisa couldn't afford his operation, and hugged him close with big tears rolling off her nose. Regular readers may remember that during the wildlife series *Back to the Wild*, I recommended a title game "Spot the Stiff", to be played each week. Unusually cautious, I admit, but at the other hand these programmes are quite cynically calculated to induce tears and cheers - so it's just a bit of bravado in combat the manipulation. The stiff this week was the old blind rabbit, and it was awful.

Channel 4's *Cutting Edge* was *Family Feuds*, which I assumed in my innocence would tell us life stories of silly people no longer speaking in code, either because they didn't get equal shares in a Georgian silver teapot. Well, how wrong can you be? Georgian silver teapots were nowhere to be seen in this flimsy of



Lynne Truss

vicious mental cruelty and physical hurt. One couple suffered months of persistent phone calls and hives - a campaign waged by a disgruntled sister, who ordered pizzas, taxis and removal men at any time of the day or night. This sister, now in prison, was unrepentant, but it was easy to picture her sitting on the stairs with phone and ashtray at her elbow and the *Yellow Pages* lying

open and dejected in her lap. Worst of all was the fact that, of rough father and son Ken and Sean, from *Soldier* - a story so unpleasant and unprejudiced on telly that it was tempting to hope it was all made up. It began with Sean showing us a picture of his father in his incubator. "If I'd known what he was going to do," said Ken with a wince. "I'd have smothered the little bastard." What had Sean done? Had he turned in the hat? Sold drugs, perhaps? A few staccato ideas flitted through one's head before Sean told us that his dad had actually put out a contract on him. Ken told us he would certainly kill Sean himself, if he got the chance - because Sean was a police informer against the Firm, and had transgressed "everything I believed in".

Combating the moral vertigo wasn't easy. Here was a story without tears or cheers, with no

place for normal sentiment. *Omertà* seemed to be the issue, only these people weren't Sicilian. In the good old days before the rift, Sean had made a video of a police informer having his head beaten in a pub, and Ken showed us that video as if it were a pair of baby shoes, so that we could share his feelings of loss. At which point I felt the struggle with moral vertigo, and blinked out.

Back with the truly bestial, the three-part drama *Wilderness* (ITV) finished last night with the best possible outcome: a senseless blood-letting, happy wolf biting through remote Welsh inadequate Welsh boy-friend's neck, and broken-down dog-farmers certified and medicated. He has his. Apart from the terrible theme music (reminiscent of *Tales of the Unexpected*), *Wilderness* was a great success, intelligent and suspenseful, and

people who complain about the wolf behaving like an Andrus puppy are simply asking too much. Usually I warn dissenters, "Just imagine if Carlon had made it!" which shuts them up. But in this case Carlon did make it, so it doesn't have the impact. Meanwhile Amanda Coms, with her eyes always wet and questioning, and hair on end like Gary Rhodes, has single-handedly revived the figure of the infant sausage - and we hadn't even noticed it had gone.

Finally, back in the realm of the resolutely human, the last Mastermind of the series (BBC1) gave the trophy to Richard Sturch, a parish priest in nice sandals who answered questions on Gilbert and Sullivan. In the context of so much rough stuff, it was a little piece of heaven. Ask this nice old gem why someone would call their goatee "Robbin" and Jerome and he wouldn't know. Well, bless him for that.

REVIEW

Citizen's Arrest
Channel 4, 8.00pm
Jan Hay, a Devon farmer, was shot dead by police outside his house. He was brandishing a gun and had previously fired at a tractor trailer and then the local pub. The inquest jury decided that Hay had been lawfully killed, but Danni Hay, his sister, believes that the full truth has not yet emerged, and that her brother was more depressed than dangerous. She is critical of the way the police operation was handled. This is all heart-felt and provocative stuff, and the film follows the latest stage in her three-year campaign to have the matter looked at again. But since the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall declines to be interviewed, this programme, at least, cannot take things any further. Television is clearly not as powerful as this series would like to suggest.

Witness: Manhunter
Channel 4, 9.00pm
Rabbi Yehuda Gordon has an unusual job which can only be explained by reference to Jewish divorce laws. If a couple want to end their marriage, the husband's consent is essential. If he withholds it, as many do, the wife cannot remarry or have children within the Jewish religion. Some wives wait for, or even 20 years to be set free. Yet undivorced men are free to marry again and start second families. Western feminism has not yet penetrated as far as Israel. Rabbi Gordon, who is employed by the Rabbinical Court which grants divorces, tries to persuade husbands of broken marriages to agree to a divorce. He is a patient and good-humoured negotiator whose work takes him well beyond his own country. His territory includes the former Soviet Union and the film follows him to Ukraine, Tashkent and Siberia.

Network First: The Connections
ITV, 10.40pm
A film about the Colombian heroin trade has two overlapping components. The first is an impressively detailed account, the product of clandestine interviews and hidden cameras, of the passage of the drugs from their origin in the poppy fields of South America to the streets of British cities. Central to the chain is the "mule", who flies from Bogota to London with the heroin concealed in his pockets in his stomach. No wonder he cannot eat anything on route. It is chilling to learn that a substance costing £100 to produce sells in Britain for £1000. The other, more dramatic, part of the programme suggests that with the criminal justice system unable to touch the cartels the only way to smash them may be to make heroin legal. Among the unlikely supporters of the idea is the freemarket economist Professor Milton Friedman. Peter Waymark

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CHOICE

6.00am GMTV (1441405)
9.25 SUPERMARKET SWEEP (2311476)
9.55 REGIONAL NEWS (1610454)
10.00 THE TIME... THE PLACE (1253270)
10.30 THIS MORNING (1274535-54)
12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (7355554)
12.30 NEWS (Teletext) (3030195)
12.55 SHORTLAND STREET (5322115); **1.25 HIGH ROAD** (Teletext) (6215521) **2.00 HOME AND AWAY** (Teletext) (2762957) **2.25 QUISINE** (Teletext) (1973434)
2.25 VANESSA (Teletext) (5333844)
3.25 HTV WEST HEADLINES (5322115)
3.30 POTAMUS PARK (9584202) **3.40 WIZARDRA** (6504931) **3.50 HOT RIDD DOGS** (825315) **4.05 GARFIELD AND FRIENDS** (4519301) **4.15 HEY ARNOLD!** (6983950) **4.40 THE WARD** (Teletext) (8115738)

5.10 WHAT'S MY LINE? (8139660)
5.40 NEWS and weather (Teletext) (450283)
6.00 HOME AND AWAY (Teletext) (61912)
6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (592)
7.00 EMERDALE, Frank ignores the outcry over the quarry development (8467)
7.30 THE WOODWARD FILE, Edward Woodward takes a searching look at the countryside of today, including a visit to the home of former Formula One World Champion Nigel Mansell (J) (776)
8.00 THE BILL, A robbery investigation looks certain to reveal Becci's debt to a Bookie (Teletext) (7115)

8.30 DDDBALLS, Eamonn Holmes takes a lighthearted trip through the sporting world, highlighting some of the pitfall that lie in wait for unsuspecting sportsmen and women. Tonight's guests are Barry McGuigan, Geoff Hurst, Ken Wallerholme and Dermot (Father Ted) Morgan (Teletext) (1) (9950)
9.00 SOLDIER, SOLDIER, Army cuts loose Fosterer to make a moral decision. A career opportunity for Angela clashes with her love (Teletext) (6) (8831)
10.00 NEWS and weather (Teletext) (417119)
10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (956047)
10.40 CHOICE NETWORK FIRST: The Connections, Following the heroin trail from the poppy fields of Colombia to the streets of Britain (Teletext) (811028)

11.00 CANVAS, Arts discussion programme with Paul Gough (19176)
12.10am ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS (1757923) **12.40 NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE EXTRA** (1936210) **1.25 FILM: Miracle Landing** (94852) **3.05 LATE and LOUD** (2058897) **4.05 THE CHARTER SHOW** (4414963) **5.00 THE EDGE** (42952) **5.30 NEWS** (130651)

HTV WALES

AS HTV WEST EXCEPT:
5.10pm-5.40 BAGDAD CAFE (5179620)
6.25-7.00 WALES TONIGHT (221124)
7.30-8.00 INQUISITION (776)
11.40 ALICE (19475)

WEST-COUNTRY
AS HTV WEST EXCEPT:
12.55 EMERDALE (3038115)
1.25-1.55 QUISINE (17339365)
1.55 HOME AND AWAY (41628467)
2.25 VANESSA (2762950)
2.55-3.20 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (4170475)
5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (8139660)
6.00-7.00 WEST-COUNTRY LIVE (82776)
7.30-8.00 TREASURES (776)
11.40 PRISONER CELL BLOCK H (774080)

CENTRAL
AS HTV WEST EXCEPT:
12.55 HOME AND AWAY (3038115)
1.25 QUISINE (73339365)
1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (41628080)
2.20 VANESSA (27640689)
2.50-3.20 FROM THE GROUND UP (973484)
5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (8139660)
6.25-7.00 CENTRAL NEWS (821134)
7.30-8.00 RELATIVE VALUES (776)
11.40 CENTRAL SPORTS SPECIAL (774080)
12.40am FILM: White Hot (988351)
1.25 LATE and LOUD (7557055)
3.20 RECOLLECTIONS (16741326)
4.30 HTV SPORT CLASSICS (15383429)
4.35 JOYFINDER (5207582)
5.20 ASIAN EYE (8285142)

SAC
6.35 ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY (9564883)
7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (7793100)
9.30 YSGOLION (528283)
12.00pm WILD WEST COUNTRY (44028)
12.30 SLODOTE (72399)
1.00 SLOD METHERIN (873718)
1.30 FILM: What We Did Again (88506370)
3.05 FRESH POP (1518975)
3.15 RICKI LAKE (9679631)
4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (405)
4.30 DESIRE (689)
5.00 PUMP (673)
5.30 COUNTDOWN (641)
6.00 CENTRAL NEWS (555863)
6.05 HEND (614009)
6.35 JACPOIT (823778)
7.00 PEBOL V CWM (934641)
7.25 TRIP TO TELL (1058414)
8.00 STORI FAWR (1575)
8.30 NEWYDDION (7592)
9.00 CODI CLAWR HAMES (8202)
11.25 NORTHERN EXPOSURE (919824)
12.30am CANTERBURY TALES (67790)
1.30 DRIVEN (163371)
4.00 YSGOLION (6101871)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY (9564883) **7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST** (7793100) **9.00 HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER**, Bacon and onion soup, beef and mustard pie, chocolate brownies (57922)
9.30 SCHOOLS: Eureka! 9.45 Stop Look Listen 10.00 Fanny's Farm 10.10 TV 10.25 Hbz: We Used to Live 10.45 Carolean 11.00 The New Living City 11.20 Stage One 11.37 Lost Animals 11.42 Poverty Answering Back 11.45 First Edition (828263)

12.00 WILD WEST COUNTRY (Teletext) (5) (44028)
12.30pm BACKDATE Quiz (s) (72399)
1.00 SESAME SPECIAL (s) (8870865)
1.55 PETE SMITH STRAIGHTS: Camera Deaths (6993009)
2.05 FILM: Ramrod (b/w, 1947), with Veronica Lake and Preston Foster. A woman rancher seeks vengeance against a villainous cattle baron. Directed by Andre de Toth (890288)
4.00 FIFTEEN TO ONE (405)
4.30 COUNTDOWN (689)
5.00 RICKI LAKE (7331863)
5.45 TRAVELOG TREKS: North Korea, With Andy Kershaw (2/2) (s) (457196)
6.00 THE AVENGERS: The Curious Case of Countess Clues, Steed investigates a series of puzzling murders while Tara is held up in bed after a skiing accident. With Patrick Macnee and Linda Thorson (J) (Teletext) (81018)
7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (956688)
7.55 THE SLOT (282950)

8.00 CHOICE CITIZEN'S ARREST, The case of Devon farmer Jan Hay, shot by police after he went berserk with a gun (6/6) (Teletext) (s) (5757)
8.30 BROOKSIDE, Ollie takes drastic measures to keep Nat and Georgia apart and Little Jimmy causes heartache for Jimmy and Jackie. With Michael J. Jackson (s) (7592)

9.00 CHOICE WITNESS: Manhunter, The work of Israel's Rabbinical Court in freeing husbands who abandon their wives (Teletext) (s) (61573)
10.00 DROP THE DEAD DONKEY: The Bird of Doom, The technology revolution reaches Globelink (406757)
10.35 WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY? (1) (s) (Teletext) (752757)
11.05 GET UP, STAND UP, Spiky, black comedy with Malcolm Frederick, Angie Le Mar and Chris Tummings (5/5) (2/6) STORI FAWR (1575)
11.35 NORTHERN EXPOSURE: I Feel the Earth Move (919824)
12.30am THE SHOOTING GALLERY 11 short films. Ends at 3.30
4.00 SCHOOLS (8101871) Ends at 5.00

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (527950)
7.00 BREAKFAST NEWS (Teletext)
9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (20411544384)
9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (s) (2746279) **9.45 KILROY** (s) (2189600)
10.30 CANT COOK, WON'T COOK (s) (437333)
11.00 NEWS and weather (875797)
11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (7933757)
11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (1739467)
12.00 NEWS and weather (Teletext) (7322370)
12.05 NEW THE FLYING DOCTORS, A series of medical adventures from Cooper's Crossing (8789370)
12.50pm FANCY THAT! (6581139)
1.00 NEWS and weather (Teletext) (54080)
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (57295283)
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (Teletext) (s) (44252405)
2.00 CALL THE BLUFF (s) (2253) **2.30 THE TERRACE** (s) (115) **3.00 INCODINO** (s) (1318) **3.30 BRUM** (959134)
3.40 ROMUALDO THE REINDEER (6919863)
3.50 POPEYE (j) (Teletext) (2208775)
4.10 OSCAR'S ORCHESTRA (Teletext) (s) (866283) **4.35 THE QUEEN'S NOSE** (j) (Teletext) (s) (764196)
5.00 NEWSROUND (2246979)
5.10 BYKER GROVE, Anna and Flora try to solve another crime (Teletext) (s) (633283)
5.35 NEIGHBOURS, Karl and Susan go wild in the country (j) (Teletext) (s) (667486)
6.00 NEWS and weather (Teletext) (844)
6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (195)
7.00 HOLIDAY, Jill Dando stays with America's most glamorous holiday-makers at the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida. Kathy Taylor finds a way to spend a weekend at Disneyland Paris for less than £50 per person (Teletext) (s) (3399)
7.30 EASTENDERS, Pat and Roy share wedding day nerves. Barry is questioned by Phil and Grant and Cindy plans her future (Teletext) (s) (690)
8.00 SPORTSNIGHT, Live coverage of the test leg of the Uefa Cup second round tie between Ferencvaros of Hungary and Newcastle United. Newcastle's test trophy was in this competition in 1969 and they are looking to repeat that success, introduced by Desmond Lynam, with Alan Hansen (s) (98278979)
9.55 NEWS, REGIONAL NEWS and weather (825960)

6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: Duocolor: the Russell Madonna (7370033) **6.25 The Palazzo Publico, Siena** (7387863) **6.50 Sperakia Chapel, Florence** (9340660)
7.15 SEE HEAR BREAKFAST NEWS (Teletext) (s) (12928)
7.30 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (4584009) **7.55 BLUE PETER** (j) (Teletext) (s) (8643495) **8.20 FREEMAN SAM** (j) (1137592)
8.25 THE RECORD (j) (8083660)
9.30 THE RE COLLECTION (2307221) **9.45 WATCH** (1788573) **10.00 PLAYDAYS** (45844) **10.30 COME OUTSIDE** (182684) **10.45 TEACHING TODAY** (1271912) **11.15 CLEMENTINE** (8442009) **11.30 GRAY TV** (1399) **12.00 SEE HEAR!** (42660) **12.30pm WORKING LUNCH** (70931) **1.00 TEACHING TODAY** (82950) **1.30 SHOWCASE** (57293825) **1.40 HOTCH POTCH HOUSE** (44250047)
2.00 FREEMAN SAM (j) (1841364) **2.10 THE FUGITIVE** (b/w) (j) (Teletext) (4970221)
3.00 NEWS (Teletext) (526554) **3.05 WESTMINSTER** (Teletext) (s) (4670318) **3.55 NEWS** (Teletext) (8286202)
4.00 TODAY'S DAY (s) (729) **4.30 READY, STEADY, COOK** (s) (231) **5.00 THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW** (s) (910208) **5.40 A WEEK TO REMEMBER** (b/w) (472405) **5.50 UFLINE** (j) (Teletext) (s) (376283)
6.00 FRESH PRINCE OF BEL AIR (j) (s) (669405)
6.25 HEARTBREAK HIGH (Teletext) (s) (541466)
7.10 THE O-ZONE (j) (s) (212931)
7.30 WE ARE NOT AMUSED (j) (950)
8.00 POUND FOR POUND explores ethical investments (7919)
8.30 ANTONIO CARLUCCIO'S ITALIAN FEAST, Veneto, Carluccio shows the local spices (s) (919)

9.00 CHOICE TIMEWATCH: REMEMBER AMBERVA (Teletext) (s) (192221)
9.50 TRADE SECRETS, Housekeepers share their cleaning secrets (j) (Teletext) (s) (718931)
10.00 HANCOCK: The East Cheam Centenary, After nominating himself to organise the festivities, Hancock hits upon several money-making ideas (b/w) (j) (Teletext) (s) (50689)
10.30 NEWSNIGHT (Teletext) (731115)
11.15 OVER THE EDGE, Harriet Gaze investigates the Outsiders Club, which exists to provide sexual contact for disabled people (CA) (j) (707318)
11.50 HOLIDAY OUTINGS (j) (861955)
12.00 THE MIDDNIGHT HOUR (45806)
12.30 am-6.00 THE LEARNING ZONE



The tragedy at Aberfan (9.00p)

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10.00 HANCOCK: The East Cheam Centenary, After nominating himself to organise the festivities, Hancock hits upon several money-making ideas (b/w) (j) (Teletext) (s) (50689)
10.30 NEWSNIGHT (Teletext) (731115)
11.15 OVER THE EDGE, Harriet Gaze investigates the Outsiders Club, which exists to provide sexual contact for disabled people (CA) (j) (707318)
11.50 HOLIDAY OUTINGS (j) (861955)
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SATELLITE AND CABLE

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory published on Saturday
SKY 1
7.00am Unlun (8273) 8.00 Press You (2994134) 8.30 Jeopardy (209421)
8.45 The Oprah Winfrey Show (340221)
9.00am RFL (230302) 11.00 Sally Lark (291363) 12.00 Genuis (4822)
1.00pm One to Three (7123) 2.00 Jerry Jones (2729) 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (39134) 5.00 The New Adventures of Superman (48216) 7.00 LAPD (6115) 7.30 MASH (5641) 8.00 Springfield (8634) 8.30 Mashed Unleashed (1270) 9.00 The Law and Order (10879) 10.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (40738) 11.00 The New Adventures of Superman (17574) 12.00am MASH (8482) 1.00am The Law and Order (1433) 1.30am RFL (4436)

SKY 2
7.00am Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (411853) 11.00am Star Trek: Voyager (411513



BASEBALL 47 New York Yankees power through to World Series

SPORT

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15 1996

GOLF 49

Jaguar makes short work of regional challenge



World champion savours success

Hill settles into new life in the fast lane

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN TOKYO

SPEED clung to Damon Hill yesterday, reluctant to release the new Formula One champion from his giddy grip.

Hill sat with his wife, Georgie, at the front of one of the carriages on the Bullet Train as it hurtled along at more than 100mph.

He was surrounded by officials from his Williams team and their main sponsors, Rothmans, who were shepherding him through his first engagement as the world champion.

Even when Hill got here, things would not slow down. He was ushered from Tokyo Central station, through heavy traffic and pouring rain, straight to the Reuters building for a solid afternoon of television interviews.

It was not until after 7pm that Hill was able to check in at his hotel in the Shinjuku district and attempt to relax.

The night before, of course, had been one of prolonged celebration, starting off with three glasses of schnapps, courtesy of the patron of the Rothmans motor home, an extrovert Austrian who brings his own cannon to races and fires it off in the paddock after the action is over.

As it approached midnight and the tumult was at its height, revellers in the hat colonised by Hill and his wife and friends — familiar, now, with endless renditions of We Are the Champions and My Way — were treated to the sight of Michael Schumacher, the deposed champion and the Englishman's greatest rival, singing along to the Dad's Army theme tune.

The words had been changed to "Who do you think you are kidding Michael Schumacher, if you think you can keep old Damon down", and Schumacher, who finished third in the championship behind Hill and his Williams-Renault team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, appeared to be playing his part with relish.

Hill was still acting like a livewire on the train despite the remnants of a hangover and the constant attention, still letting the realisation that he was world champion sink dreamily into his soul.

"It is irreversible," he said. "That is the thing. There is no way anyone can undo my achievement. It is done. It is such an enormous relief to have crossed over the threshold and to have joined the very, very few who have become world champion. It is a relief that all the hard work is over, all the effort to keep your mind working in the right way. It is the same relief anyone feels when they know they are going to get a break for a while."

"It is as though someone has taken a brake off my brain and now I can relax for the first time in such a long time and just be normal. Even more than relief, though, the sense of triumph is overwhelming. It was what I so wanted to do and I have achieved it. It is very satisfying."

Hill will take a break from motor racing for a month, spending time with his family in Dublin and taking them on holiday. He will then start his driving duties for the TWR Arrows team he joined after the surprising decision by Frank Williams, the Williams team manager, to release him after this year.

"I am not thinking about jobs that lie ahead really, though," Hill said. "I am just drinking it in at the moment. I am taking a rest from setting myself goals for a while. I am not considering anything other than what I have just done and what I have achieved. I am going to enjoy that even though I am one of those mad people who cannot relax for too long. I start worrying if I am not doing anything."

He was followed by Kinch Christie, a coach of superb quality who suffered from illness as well as an independence of mind which allowed him to take or leave one of the most onerous sporting posts. Morné du Plessis was third, a former Springbok captain who, as team manager, crossed the divide of colour so successfully and who spoke of his country's future with such sincerity.

Now the captain, Pienaar, whose exchange with the national president, Nelson Mandela, in the minutes following the defeat of New Zealand created the lasting image of the 1995 World Cup, joins them in rugby obscurity. But there was substance to the image, the drive towards the "affirmative action" through which rugby could cross racial barriers, which was recog-

nised in a remarkable poll over the weekend. Some 55,000 people used a hot-line established by the Johannesburg-based Sunday Times to answer the question: "Who should be fired, Pienaar or [André] Markgraaff?" The answer was loud: 95.5 per cent said Markgraaff, the man who succeeded Christie as coach, should go. "There can be no clearer indication of how far our rugby administrators have drifted from the loyalties and feelings of ordinary rugby fans," Brian Pominger, the paper's editor, said.

Listeners to radio stations have hinted at a boycott of the Currie Cup semi-final at Pretoria this Saturday between Northern Transvaal and Transvaal, Pienaar's province and yesterday's Ray Mordt, Markgraaff's assistant coach. Morné du Plessis, one of South Africa's better wings of the 1980s, as technical adviser.

"The selectors are doing what they feel is best for South African rugby," Luyt said. "Their motives are honest and genuine and to suggest anything else is appalling." But the heat is now on Markgraaff: he has a golden era in Springbok rugby hanging over him like a cloud and if he cannot find playing success, and swiftly, he could be the next casualty.

Favers banned, page 47 All Black power, page 47



Making tracks: Hill and his wife, Georgie, are the focus of attention from fans and the media on the Bullet Train to Tokyo yesterday

FA charges Bosnich with misconduct

By RICHARD HOBSON AND PETER BALL

MARK BOSNICH, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association after his Nazi-style salute to Tottenham Hotspur supporters during the FA Carling Premiership game at White Hart Lane last Saturday, and could also face criminal charges as police investigations continue.

Bosnich, 24, issued an open statement of regret through his agent yesterday morning addressed to "anyone offended, hurt or dumbfounded" and spent the rest of the day torn between bewilderment and contrition. The only good news came when Brian Little, the Villa manager, said that his place in the team was not in jeopardy as a result of the gesture. That is not to say, however, that he will escape punishment from his club.

An FA spokesman said that the disciplinary panel had made contact with the police before issuing a misconduct charge. It is unlikely to hear

the case before the police have finished their own investigations and passed on those findings to the Crown Prosecution Service, who will decide whether to charge Bosnich with a public order offence.

Scotland Yard is annoyed at suggestions that action by the FA was ever an alternative to their own procedure. "I can assure people that we are continuing to investigate thoroughly," a Yard spokesman said. Bosnich could be questioned by police for a second time, having been interviewed, along with Little, immediately after the game, which Villa lost 1-0.

Bosnich, booked by the referee, Peter Jones, for ungentlemanly conduct, reaffirmed his sorrow yesterday and continued to maintain that his gesture was a "split second prank," an imitation of Basti Fawly, that backfired.

He said that he was unaware of Tottenham's Jewish links and said: "You can call it a moment of madness if you like. Anti-Semitism and racism are crimes against humanity; ignorance and joc-

ularity are not. You can accuse me of making a bad taste joke but anything else I think is very, very harsh."

Bosnich is clearly conducting a damage limitation exercise. He pointed out that he has a Jewish aunt himself and has previously spoken of the way he was persecuted as a child in Australia because of his Croatian background.

"I lost family in the Second

Newcastle's fears 48 Money-go-round 48 High-flying Dodds 48

World War and in the recent war in Yugoslavia," he added. He said he regretted what he sees as the widening gulf between players and supporters. He made the gesture as a way of acknowledging cries of "one Jürgen Klinsmann" from Tottenham supporters, a reference to a game two seasons ago when he was involved in a collision with the German striker, then a Tottenham player.

Grant Bovey, head of Cruise

Holdings, has been approached by two Premiership clubs since his attempt to take over Nottingham Forest at a cost of £30 million became public at the weekend.

Bovey, 35, met the Forest chairman, Fred Reacher, and his fellow directors in London last week. However, Keith Gibson, one of those directors, said that he did not feel the club "would be progressing" with a man who was raised a few miles out of the city and watched his first football from the old terraces on the Trent End at the City Ground.

Bovey said: "If they decide they would rather go forward with somebody else then fine. Football is moving very quickly and on the back of the publicity, two clubs have been in touch because they thought I might be in a position to invest in them. But I would not have approached anybody except Forest."

Sheffield Wednesday yesterday completed the signing of Benito Carbone, the midfield player from Internazionale, for £3 million. The fee is a record for the club.

Carbone has few qualms about inheriting Chris Waddle's No 8 shirt. "I'm not worried by that prospect at all," he said. "I'm not aware of how famous a player he was with Wednesday. All I know is how famous Diego Maradona was at Napoli when I took over his No 10 shirt. Then at Inter, I took over the No 10 shirt again — this time from Dennis Bergkamp."

Carbone's arrival means that David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, has spent nearly £7 million this summer, totally revamping the side. Carbone's transfer sets a record after the £2.75 million previously paid by Trevor Francis for Des Walker and Andy Sinton.

Pleat's previous highest signing was Andy Booth for £2.65 million from Huddersfield Town in the summer. Carbone will fit into midfield alongside Orlando Trustfull and Mark Pembroke, with Regi Blinker on the other wing. Pleat hopes to have the forms complete in time to face Blackburn Rovers at Hillsborough on Saturday.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

- ACROSS: 1 Vulgarly cheeky, assertive (5); 4 Harsh, bitter (manner) (7); 5 Meet (requirements) (7); 9 Customary (5); 10 Bearskin (5); 11 Disorderly (6); 13,15 Common language (6,6); 18 Hackneyed phrase (6); 20 (Judge) finally address jury (3,2); 22 Small weight; big cat (5); 23 When eg school on show to public (4,3); 24 Similar, related (7); 25 Happen again (5).

SOLUTION TO NO 912 ACROSS: 1 Jude 3 Decrepit 9 Vouch 10 Bubbles 11 Nullify 12 Inman 14 Lizard 18 Adjoin 19 Pole 19 Manager 22 Absolve 23 Sward 24 Sideslip 25 Bee DOWN: 1 Juvenile 2 Double-crossed 4 Embryo 5 Rebuild 6 Pull a long face 7 Test 8 Thai 13 Intruder 15 Trellis 17 Impede 20 Nash 21 Bass

South Africa's new rugby regime needs swift success

A MERE 16 months ago, South African rugby possessed two dream teams: the XV which won the World Cup and the four-man team which contrived to paint so positive an image not only of their sport but of their country.

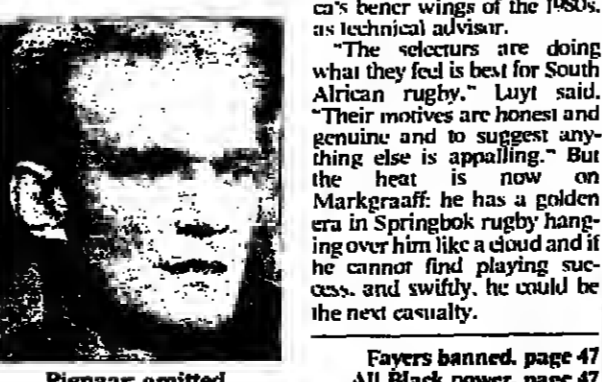
Now the first is broken and the second, with the omission of Francois Pienaar from the party to tour Argentina, France and Wales this autumn, is gone. Given the introverted politics of South African rugby one should not be surprised, yet the loss of a management team of such quality creates a melancholy record. First to go was Edward Griffiths who, as the South African Rugby Football Union's (SARFU) chief executive, liaised with the media; a former political speech writer, Griffiths coined the phrase "one team, one nation", so apt for the time.

He was followed by Kinch Christie, a coach of superb quality who suffered from illness as well as an independence of mind which allowed him to take or leave one of the most onerous sporting posts. Morné du Plessis was third, a former Springbok captain who, as team manager, crossed the divide of colour so successfully and who spoke of his country's future with such sincerity.

Now the captain, Pienaar, whose exchange with the national president, Nelson Mandela, in the minutes following the defeat of New Zealand created the lasting image of the 1995 World Cup, joins them in rugby obscurity. But there was substance to the image, the drive towards the "affirmative action" through which rugby could cross racial barriers, which was recog-

David Hands on the upheavals that are tearing the Springboks apart

Transvaal — and Pienaar. Moreover, Keith Parkinson, the Natal president, has resigned from the Sarfu executive committee in protest. "I now have extreme difficulty in accepting and condoning the new face of South African rugby," he said.



Pienaar: omitted

Inter set to contest Ince's ban

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

INTERNAZIONALE are to appeal against the suspension received by Paul Ince, the England midfielder, who was sent off at the weekend after being subjected to racist abuse.

The trouble started when Gianpietro Piovani, the Piacenza defender, went over to Ince and shouted racial abuse at him as they waited for a corner.

Ince responded by touching Piovani lightly on the shoulder and his opponent, who has since admitted feigning injury, dropped to the ground. Ince will now be given either a one or two-match ban, but Inter can appeal against the verdict before the disciplinary committee on Friday.

A spokeswoman for Inter said: "Our lawyers are now preparing an appeal to the disciplinary committee." Massimo Moratti, the club president, hopes Ince's case will not even get that far. He told the Gazzetta dello Sport: "I hope that he will be cleared by sporting judiciary. I hope there will be an amnesty for an offence which was never committed."

Ince, who was subjected to racial abuse from the crowd against Cremonese last season, was furious about the incident. "I didn't do anything wrong, and I'm really angry with Piovani, because first he insulted me and afterwards he made a real scene," he said.

Advertisement for Lombard Business Finance featuring a silhouette of a person and the text 'Who is NUMBER 1?' and 'Simple. For all types of asset finance, it has to be Lombard.'

مكذبا من الأصداف

Make no mistake, the 20 European Union Commissioners are the people who really call the shots in Britain.

We are much further down the road to being part of a federal European super-state, governed by unelected officials in Brussels, than most people realise.

Did you know that laws made in Britain can now be overturned by the European Courts? That European law, created in Brussels by these 20 people, is now the law of this land?

That already we have agreed to run our economy for the benefit of Europe as a whole? So decisions taken in Brussels can result in increasing your taxes and lowering your income.

And that now it is planned that we abandon to Brussels control of our foreign policy, our national security and our borders?

More to the point, how do you feel about this?

The Referendum Party is the only major party that believes you should have the right to vote on whether Britain is merged into a federal European super-state, or remains a free and independent nation working with our European partners for our mutual advantage.

As you will see from our Party Conference in Brighton on Saturday, we are not politicians and do not want to be politicians.

Our supporters come from all parties; left, right and centre.

Our only aim is to secure a referendum on Europe. Then we will disband, so that once again our supporters can vote for their traditional parties.

There can be no more important decision a country can face than whether or not to continue as an independent nation.

It is a decision that belongs to the people of Britain, not to its politicians.

REFERENDUM PARTY



Let the people decide



If you support the aims of the Referendum Party, call FREEPHONE 0800 919753 (lines open 7am - 11pm 7 days a week), or write to the Referendum Party, PO Box 1, Portishead, Bristol, BS20 8BR. Please quote REF T/15/10.

This advertisement prepared by Banks Hoggins O'Shea on behalf of the publisher: the Referendum Party, 1st Floor, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF.

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Changing the guard for a second Clinton reign

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

TWO of President Clinton's top advisers, George Stephanopoulos and the Defence Secretary William Perry, yesterday disclosed that they might not serve in a second Clinton Administration. A host of other senior officials, including the US Ambassadors to London and Paris, are also expected to leave if the President wins re-election.

Mr Stephanopoulos, who is 35 and the last survivor of Mr Clinton's 1992 campaign team, told *New Yorker* magazine that after five tough years as Mr Clinton's side he was burnt out. "I've had a great run, a great ride, but it feels like I'm done. It's not that I'm above it, but I can't do it any more. I just have to grow up."

Mr Perry, who is 69, told *The Wall Street Journal* he was profoundly ambivalent about his job and may leave before the year's end, although he insisted: "I haven't decided."

Mr Perry is widely respected and has calmed the Pentagon following Les Aspin's short, tempestuous reign, but has recently faced harsh criticism over the terrorist attack that killed 19 American servicemen in Saudi Arabia, the American response to Iraqi provocations, and the disclosure that troops would remain in Bosnia beyond December's deadline.

Warren Christopher, 70, the Secretary of State, is also expected to depart, further disrupting Mr Clinton's foreign policy team. Mr Christopher calls such speculation premature, but he is tired, his



George Stephanopoulos, left, and William Perry have hinted that they will not serve a second term



dream of a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement is fading, and his wife wants to return to California. Last week he broke James Baker's record as America's most travelled Secretary of State. Madeleine



Madeleine Albright wants to be Secretary of State, but George Mitchell would also like the post

Albright, the United Nations Ambassador, is pressing hard to succeed him. She is thought to have Hillary Clinton's support and Mr Clinton would love to appoint America's first female Secretary of State, but there is resistance within the State Department.

Other contenders would be George Mitchell, presently Mr Clinton's emissary to Northern Ireland, Senators Sam Nunn, Chris Dodd or



Richard Lugar, Tony Lake, the National Security Adviser, and Thomas Pickering, the former Ambassador to Russia. Richard Holbrooke, architect of the Bosnian peace accord, is often mentioned but he is a

great self-promoter and poor team player. Strobe Talbott, Mr Christopher's deputy, would face confirmation problems unless the Democrats won the Senate and would more likely replace Mr Lake if he left the White House.

Admiral William Crowe, the US Ambassador in London, was unavailable yesterday, but officials in Washington expect him to leave early next year, if only because his wife is ill. Tom Foley, the former House Speaker and noted anglophile, would be an obvious choice to succeed him.

Pamela Harriman, US Ambassador in Paris, has equated since telling *The Washington Post* last April that "I've had enough", but officials expect she would return. Jean Kennedy Smith, the controversial US Ambassador

in Dublin, would almost certainly stay on.

Mass exodus by exhausted staff are common when Presidents begin second terms and this would be no exception. Leon Panetta, the White House Chief of Staff, would almost certainly return to California and might run for Governor in 1998.

Other senior officials who are expected to go are CIA Director John Deutch, who angered the White House by saying recent American action against Iraq had strengthened President Saddam Hussein; Hazel O'Leary, the Energy Secretary, whose lavish overseas travel has embarrassed the President; and Henry Cisneros, the Housing Secretary, who was investigated for concealing payments to a mistress.

Jester Gingrich plays politics of pantomime

FROM IAN BRODIE IN ATLANTA

NEWT GINGRICH cuts a tragicomic figure as he traipses around his constituency on the outskirts of Atlanta, brandishing a plastic bucket.

The chubby Speaker of the House of Representatives, and erstwhile leader of the Republican "revolution", has a diminished role in this year's election, other than as the butt of Democrats' stunts.

He lugs the bucket everywhere. Between stops it sits beside him in his minivan. This pantomime prop is a memento from his glory days two years ago when "Newt's army" of Republicans wrested control of the House from Democrats after 40 years.

He promptly cancelled twice-daily deliveries of buckets of ice to every House member. The service employed 14, cost \$500,000 and had survived the invention of refrigerators for 80 years. "Here is a symbol of how we stopped the Democrats wasting your money," Mr Gingrich said, plunking his bucket on the lectern at a fund-raiser.

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ELECTION '96

that big government's days are numbered, but his radical conservatism quickly caused alarm. Democrats assailed his talk of reviving orphanages. He was attacked for saying that the agency running Medicare should "wither on the vine". He was ridiculed as a "cry baby" for complaining that his shabby treatment on Mr Clinton's plane had contributed to a government shutdown over the budget. In short, Mr Gingrich talked too much. His rhetoric was incendiary and frightening.

He had been hailed — amazingly in retrospect — as a potential President before plummeting from being *Time* man of the year to one of the most unpopular politicians in America. Adding to his troubles, he is still dogged by an ethics investigation into tangled allegations that he had used tax-exempt donations improperly. Nowadays Mr Gingrich is a pariah, even among Republicans. Many blame him for Mr Clinton's resurgence. He is like a West End actor relegated to rep. The oratory is still there, but the crowds and media interest have fallen away sharply.

Mr Gingrich's seat is considered safe. He won his solidly Republican district with 64 per cent last time and he faces an unlikely Democrat, Michael Coles, a multimillionaire who founded the Great American Cookie Co with 400 branches selling big, gooey biscuits. Known as Cookie Monster, he is spending lavishly in the hope that Mr Gingrich will crumble. Luckily for the Speaker, Mr Coles is a political novice.



Gingrich: a pariah even among Republicans

California puts Dole team in disarray

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE, his wife Elizabeth and his running-mate Jack Kemp descended on California yesterday with the Republican campaign strategy for one of the most crucial electoral states in disarray.

Mr Dole, who faces President Clinton in the second and final presidential debate tomorrow in San Diego, southern California, is reported to be considering an eleven-hour blitz on the Golden State. That would scotch persistent rumours that he is planning to abandon California, where he lags heavily in the polls; but it would drain millions of dollars from his campaign in other important states where he stands more chance of winning.

As the presidential race enters its last three weeks, Mr Dole, who continues to trail the President by double-digit margins in most polls, is wavering over the central planks of his strategy, including whether to criticise Mr Clinton's morals and where to deploy limited resources.

California offers a fifth of the electoral college votes needed for victory and Mr Clinton's campaign throughout has regarded it as a cornerstone of its electoral strategy. The state has a reputation for being harsh on candidates who neglect it and Mr Clinton has swamped it with attention, visiting 29 times in four years.

Republican advisers say they are taking encouragement from Friday's respected Field Institute poll, which indicated that Mr Clinton's lead in California had narrowed by four percentage points, to ten points. Newt Gingrich, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, has also been urging Mr Dole not to write off California.

However, Dole aides are saying in private that money and attention are now being focused as much on those areas where congressional candidates need help as on those where Mr Dole himself can reasonably hope to win.



Mordchai Vanunu's message to the media outside a Jerusalem court explaining his kidnapping by Mossad in 1986

Ten years on, Israel's nuclear whistle blower stays defiant

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN TEL AVIV

AFTER spending 3,662 days in solitary confinement, the longest recently endured by any prisoner in the Western world, Mordchai Vanunu, the Israeli technician who revealed Israel's nuclear secrets to *The Sunday Times*, remains defiant.

Yesterday a truncated message to the outside world from the man who, at his last supreme court appearance in December was forced to wear a mask to prevent him speaking to the media, was read to the first international conference of his supporters by Susannah York, the actress.

In words dictated to one of his brothers before prison authorities could intervene and return him to the tiny cell

which has been his home since his kidnapping in 1986, Vanunu — who on Sunday marked his forty-second birthday — said: "I thank you all. I am happy for revealing what I revealed."

Ten years ago this month his story, carried across three pages of *The Sunday Times*, disclosed that Israel had a nuclear arsenal of between 100-200 warheads which has still never been admitted publicly and makes it the world's sixth nuclear power. The information has never been debated by the Israeli parliament and remains a non-subject in the Israeli media.

The two-day conference, shunned by a number of Israeli universities but eventu-

ally staged at a beachfront hotel amid the uncomfortable presence of secret service agents, was the biggest boost yet for Vanunu's hopes of securing release before 2004. Campaigners from around the world listened to details of his kidnapping by Mossad and his deteriorating mental state, including growing paranoia.

Among the many calls for his release was one from Anthony Grey, the former Reuters correspondent turned best-selling novelist.

"Having spent two years in solitary as a hostage in China, the heart quails at how a man can endure five times that period," he wrote. "Here is a man of great courage."

The gathering was staged

less than 20 miles from the seaside home of the blonde agent codenamed "Cindy" who lured Vanunu into a trap by tempting him to fly from London to Rome. There he was drugged and later smuggled by sea to Israel.

The meeting was hailed by Joseph Rotblat, 87, winner of the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize. He argued that Vanunu was a "whistle-blower", not a spy or traitor. *Hazarec*, Israel's leading broadsheet, carried a front-page commentary backing Vanunu's release.

An enlarged photograph at the conference showed the message scrawled on Vanunu's palm outside a Jerusalem court that told the world of his kidnapping.

Mother to defend dissident son in trial

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

THE mother of Wang Dan, the Chinese dissident once named by China as its "most wanted" counter-revolutionary, is to defend her son in a coming trial at which he could be sentenced to death for allegedly attempting to overthrow the Government.

The action she is taking is unique in China's legal history. Mrs Wang Lingyun, 61, speaking on the phone yesterday from Peking, said her 26-year-old son wanted her to defend him, alongside his other lawyer. Mrs Wang believes the trial will begin this week. She will defend him against the charge that he had collaborated with foreign subversive elements, which she says amounts to no more than doing a correspondence course at the University of California.

Mr Wang's main lawyer will concentrate on the other charges against him, such as collaborating with internal counter-revolutionaries such as Wei Jingsheng, a nominee for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. Wei is presently serving a 14-year sentence; this was imposed two years after he completed nearly 15 years of a previous term.

Mr Wang, a student leader during the pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in 1989, was soon afterwards placed on top of the "most wanted" list. He served four years in prison, followed by constant detentions, until his disappearance into police custody 17 months ago. His parents say they have neither spoken to him since his detention, nor do they know where he is being held.

Mr Wang's trial comes just after last week's jailing of Liu Xiaobo, another Tiananmen veteran, for three years at a labour camp. In late September Liu had written a pamphlet with Wang Xizhe — another veteran dissident, who surfaced in Hong Kong over the weekend and was expected to fly to the United States last night — calling for the impeachment of President Jiang Zemin.

The imprisonment of nearly all dissidents presents President Clinton with a problem. He has maintained for a year that Communist China is more likely to treat dissidents better if Washington abandoned its threats of sanctions.



Wang Xizhe: smuggled out to Hong Kong

Thatcherite conversion ends ANC vision of road to socialism

WHEN the African National Congress took power in South Africa it was no secret that many of its most influential supporters — especially the Communist Party and the trade unions — saw its triumph as a stepping stone to full-blown socialism.

The crucial vehicle in this transformation was to be the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) — a massive exercise in state welfare and redistribution that was the heart of the ANC's 1994 election campaign. Officially, at least, this terminology still applies. The country is undergoing what is referred to as "the national democratic revolution" when the task of true progressives is to convert with the "patriotic bourgeoisie" against international capital, most egregiously represent-

President Mandela's strategy to produce 6 per cent growth and 400,000 jobs a year in South Africa is foundering. R. W. Johnson writes in Johannesburg

ed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Under the urgings of Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, the RDP has been shelved, indeed almost killed off. It is clear that virtually all the RDP targets will be missed by a mile, the programme's office has been shut down and in practice the Mandela Government has simply lacked the administrative ability to spend the money allocated to the RDP.

More strikingly, though, the Government has quietly undergone

abilities. To the growing chorus of discontent that this strategy has provoked, Mr Mbeki has even borrowed Thatcher's famous line: "There is no alternative."

The moment of truth lies just ahead with the March 1997 budget which must, according to Trevor Manuel, the Finance Minister, see the budget deficit cut to 4 per cent. The Government's Financial and Fiscal Commission is agnostic to discover that once non-discretionary items are discounted, this will imply a 7 per cent cut in the expenditure of regional governments and a whopping 17 per cent cut in the expenditure of central government departments — with, of course, a further large reduction due thereafter if the 3 per cent deficit target is to be achieved.


Just how tough this is best realised by watching the puffing and panting of European Union states to get down to the same 3 per cent deficit and 60 per cent debt ceilings laid down by Maastricht. South Africa, with far less fat to cut, is in effect aiming to meet the Maastricht criteria by 2000 although it has no EU to join.

The mood within the Finance Ministry as the possible cuts are reviewed is said to be tense, even panicky, for there is no doubt that the political reaction to austerity on this scale will be hugely unpopular with the ANC electorate. News that the Government has just taken its first loan from the World Bank has, irrationally, spurred criticism on the Left but this will be nothing if, as seems certain, the unions face

large public-sector job cuts in the next budget and the Government eventually has to seek IMF support to sustain the rand when it finally abolishes exchange controls.

One has to admire the Government's courage in embarking on an economic policy so markedly different from anything that any other African regime has started life with. Mr Mbeki has placed his hopes on the bet that the new strategy will produce 6 per cent growth and 400,000 jobs a year by 2000.

The problem is that if the Government pushes ahead with its strategy, huge unpopularity is bound to follow. But if it backs away as the strategy's true costs become clear, it risks a further collapse in investor confidence and the value of the rand.



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Harlords plans to recapture the capital

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Christopher Thomas reports from Kabul as Taleban's vital supply line is cut

Warlords lay plans to recapture the capital

FORCES opposing Taleban met in the strategic Salang Pass yesterday to discuss moving south to capture Kabul, Afghanistan's capital. Their two top commanders met in jubilant mood at a spot surrounded by the snow-covered Hindu Kush mountains.

The anti-Taleban forces have consolidated their hold on the important towns of Jabel os-Siraj and Charikar, a few hours' drive north of Kabul. This puts them within striking distance of the capital and has denied the Islamic warriors, who captured the city on September 27, a vital supply line to their forward positions.

General Ahmed Shah Massoud, the defence chief of the ousted Government, met General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the Uzbek warlord who controls six northern provinces, for talks. General Dostum, who yesterday recognised Afghanistan's ousted Government, has massive armaments of armaments, including fighter aircraft. He has close relations



A Taleban fighter with a machinegun prepares to leave Kabul for a frontline position as Islamic warriors lost more ground to ousted government forces

with the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, which supplies much of his equipment.

General Dostum's forces have not been directly involved in the counter-offensive so far. There were small-scale fighting last night less than ten miles north of Kabul, mostly in a battle for control of the important Bagram military airbase.

General Said Jaffer Naderi, a senior member of General Dostum's forces, said his backing so far had been logistical. "This meeting is to decide the future — what we will do together. Working together is the only way to defend Afghanistan."

He added that it was hoped to take Kabul by negotiation, but hinted at an offensive if such tactics failed.

Taleban insisted last night that it retained control of Bagram airbase and that Kabul was too heavily fortified to fall. It is making the presumption that General Massoud will not attack Kabul with shells and rockets because of the

inevitable civilian casualties. General Massoud has said that he withdrew from the city to save it from shelling by Taleban.

General Massoud, whose Tajik forces are centred on the Panjshir Valley 40 miles north of Kabul, has again demonstrated his prowess as a guerrilla fighter. In the 1980s he was a hero of the war against the Soviet Union, which never

conquered the valley or flushed General Massoud out of it, despite carpet-bombing and landing thousands of paratroops, most of whom perished.

Tajik civilians flocked to join his army yesterday. They are fired with the thought of marching back into Kabul, which General Massoud seized in April 1992 from the former Communist Government of President Najibullah, who Taleban hanged last month after seizing him from a United Nations compound.

General Dostum's forces occupied strategic positions around Charikar and Jabel os-Siraj yesterday. If the two armies jointly attack they could probably drive Taleban out of the capital, but civilian losses probably would be high. General Dostum reiterated last night that he would prefer to take Kabul by negotiation.

Taleban said yesterday that it was ready for peace talks with General Dostum, but that negotiations with General Massoud were out of the question. It also announced the establishment of a commission to consider the status of women, who have been ordered to stay at home and give up their jobs. Its report would take "some time" to prepare, Taleban said. It would ultimately be up to the high court to decide whether women could work and what clothes they should wear.

This will not satisfy international aid agencies, whose work is being severely disrupted because of the absence of women to implement some of their projects.

WORLD SUMMARY

Kurdish rebels advance

Nicosia: Iraqi Kurds opposed to Baghdad made further gains yesterday after recapturing their stronghold of Sulaimaniya on Sunday but said they would not attempt to retake the key city of Arbil as it was ringed by Iraqi tanks. (Michael Theodorou writes.)

Patriotic Union of Kurdistan forces were reported to have fought to within 25 miles of Arbil, from which they were ousted in August by the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

UN condemns Cyprus killing

Nicosia: The United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus condemned the shooting of Petros Kakouli, a Greek Cypriot who strayed into Turkish-held territory on Sunday (Michael Theodorou writes). The UN said the killing was a "deplorable and unnecessary use of lethal force."

Court overturns scarf expulsions

Grenoble: A court here has overturned the expulsion by two French schools in 1994 of seven Muslim schoolgirls for refusing to take off traditional headscarves in class, judicial officials said. The expulsions had caused widespread anger among France's three million Muslims. (AFP)

Children's scrap sparks gunfight

Cairo: A squabble between two small children in south Egypt led to a clash with machineguns between their Coptic Christian and Muslim families, wounding 20 people including their fathers, police said. Police arrested 15 people who took part in the fighting. (AFP)

It's a snip

Blenheim, New Zealand: A mother of six made a successful £147 bid for a vase from her husband at a charity auction in this South Island town. The New Zealand Press Association reported. (Reuter)

Pariah widows bear brunt of city's despair

By Christopher Thomas

KABUL'S 30,000 war widows are dejected. Their families throw them out, there is no hope of remarriage, their malnourished children must scavenge. And now, bidden from working, many are on the edge of starvation.

Widows, who are often also blamed for their husbands' deaths — they failed to pray hard enough for their safety — are the greatest victims of Taleban's ban on female employment. Many are squatters in bombed-out houses that cling to the rocky hills surrounding the capital, a suburb of Afghanistan's most desperate and isolated people. "We are no better than dogs," Farzana, about 25, says.

Before the Taleban Islamic militia captured Kabul last month, Farzana worked in a project run by Care International, teaching women how to

knit. She earned enough to feed herself and her two children, aged six and four, but now she must stay at home and ponder a desperate future. Her husband was killed in a rocket attack on Kabul four years ago and since then she has lived from her knitting skills. Now she cannot even work from home because Care does not have any Afghan women employees to deliver wool. A man would not be allowed to deliver supplies under Taleban's strict segregation rules.

War widows, who have an average of four to five children, live alone or with groups of other widows, such as their pariah status. Many are beggars, sitting silently hour after hour at the entrances of mosques, wrapped in a

burqa (veil), or wandering the streets with hands outstretched. Some used to scratch a living by going door-to-door offering to wash clothes or clean houses, but even that has stopped.

They could earn about a pound a day doing domestic work, enough for two or three large pieces of naan (bread). Heather Robinson, 31, from Liverpool, who works in Kabul for Care, said half the widows had debts of about £20, usually owed to the baker, a neighbour or a relation.

A survey of 5,000 widows conducted by Care found that 76 per cent had no income and survived from scavenging or borrowing. Before war broke out 17 years ago, widows and their children were traditionally protected by the late

Refugee families flee to Pakistan

FROM REUTERS IN PESHAWAR

AT LEAST 10,000 Afghans have fled to Pakistan since the capture of Kabul by Taleban, a United Nations official said yesterday.

"About 9,000 to 10,000 people have come to the Nasir Bagh camp on the outskirts of Peshawar," Anoush Daneshwar, deputy head of mission for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said in Islamabad. "The real figure is much higher because many people go and stay with their relatives and are not registered by UNHCR or the Pakistani authorities."

Mr Daneshwar said 50 to 70 families a day had been heading east from Kabul in the past week, but described this as normal for the time of year, when many people move to the eastern city of Jalalabad to escape the harsh Kabul winter. But Taleban fighters have intervened to stop men from taking families or household goods with them.

□ Dushanbe, Tajikistan: Six Islamic rebels were killed in clashes with Russian troops while trying to cross the border from Afghanistan and a soldier died when a Tajik army unit was attacked, according to officials. (AP)

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How I learnt to survive after the Andrew Neil affair

PAMELLA BORDES INTERVIEW

'I could be drinking alcohol or shooting up. I could have given up on the whole world'



Pamella Bordes and Andrew Neil, Editor of *The Sunday Times*, during the Commons scandal

Pamella Bordes has no home. She drifts through India taking photographs, sleeping in huts and hotels, crashing with friends and borrowing houses. She works a while, saves money, and roams until it runs out. She is not ambitious, not married and uncommitted. And she is no longer Pamela Bordes. She is Pamela Singh, a Jat from farmers' stock whose past, she thought, was buried. "I would like to be left in peace," she says. "Everything has kind of settled down in my life."

The former Miss India, who had Fleet Street in a frenzy seven years ago with tawdry tales of sex with editors (well, at least one of them), liaisons with a royal, with politicians and with the wealthy, has reinvented herself. She has produced the dummy of a book of text and photographs on Indian women — town women, village women and prostitutes. She moved into a friend's house in the Rajasthan town of Jaipur this month to start writing. Now she is somewhere else in India, hiding from the fresh frenzy that will accompany publication of the autobiography by Andrew Neil, former Editor of *The Sunday Times* — one of her lovers in summer 1989. He devotes much space to her.

The book, she says, is "inconvenient because again it puts me back in the news. I do not like it. Why should my name be brought up again? These guys should deal with their own lives and stop dragging me in. It is a pain in the neck for me now because I am going to have journalists chasing me around. It was a long time ago. I was different then, so young."

She met Neil at the Tramp nightclub in London's West End. "He was funny," she recalls. "Whatever I said, he made a joke. I didn't know who he was. How would I? I am not from Fleet Street. I had just arrived in England. It was a genuine friendship and I was fond of him. I haven't had any contact with him since those days. It is better that way. You move on. I am perfectly capable of looking

Pamella Bordes breaks her seven-year silence and talks to Christopher Thomas in India

after myself without having his name attached to me." She is 34 and strikingly dressed. She wants to be taken seriously as a photographer. She lives with a cameraman, her partner of five years, when she visits New York, but India is her main home. She thinks that one day she might live in southern India; she might take over some family land and live on it; she might move into the Rajasthan desert; she might get married; she might have children, although she doubts it. "Hasn't India got enough children? I would never have them here." Her plans are fluid and unsettled, like her strange, rootless life.

Her father died when she was very young. At the age of five she went to boarding school — a tough, loveless institution in the northern mountain state of Himachal Pradesh. Later she moved to boarding school in Jaipur, a town that comes closest to being home. She taught herself photography while still at school. After the trauma of her London days, she says, photography saved her life. She is passionate about her book project.

"India's street culture was never considered art because it was too close to home," she says. "It was not considered aesthetic because it was frightening. Previously, photographers concentrated on cliché im-

ages of beautiful palaces and village women with pots on their heads. There is turmoil in the cities and the streets are full of interesting pop imagery. It is impossible for me to ignore it."

She divorced her French husband Dominique Bordes seven years ago and now uses her unmarried name. Pamela has reverted to Pamela. Only one man currently obsesses her — her father, a major in the Indian Army, who died in the Himalayas during the war with China in 1962. She thinks his remains may still be there, 40 feet down a ravine where he fell, and she would like to take an expedition to recover them. "We would have to take yaks because it is so high," she says.

The detailed story of his heroism, for which he was awarded India's top military commendation, has lately surfaced in research by the maharaja of Patiala. She learnt that he froze to death. She has been calling doctors to ask how long he might have suffered. She thinks he used to visit her as a child, when her room, his portrait on the wall, would go cold. "I only found out a couple of months ago exactly how he died. I cried for days, thinking of him down there, cold and alone."

The "Pamella Affair" was a relatively undamaging scandal. No state secrets were revealed and no careers were ruined, although a marriage or two may have been shaken. The former part-time House of Commons researcher fled to Bali in Indonesia to escape the press, but reporters found her. She was pursued to Hong Kong, where she went for treatment after a road accident, and reporters barged into the doctor's consulting room. Police were called to keep them out. She disappeared to southern Africa, where they never found her. "I lived alone in the desert. I healed there." She says she stayed in Africa for five years.

"It was a painful time, physically and mentally. I could not make good decisions because I was so ill. I did recover quite quickly. I could be drinking alcohol now or shooting up. Anything could have hap-



With Andrew Neil's memoirs published, the reconstructed Pamela Bordes, now Pamela Singh, is in India hiding from the press

pened. I could have given up on the world. For me the biggest achievement is that I can still like and trust people I blindly trust people and nobody can understand that. I do not want to lose that. I am not going to lose my spontaneity."

She thinks her book project will take another two years. "When I look through the camera lens, life is in focus. I did not choose photography; it chose me. Sometimes I stay in the darkroom for three days, sleeping on the floor." She believes she must make it as

a photographer in New York, centre of international photo-journalism, to win full professional credibility. "I am anonymous in New York. There is no press interest in me there."

"The interest in me is an English thing. I never look back on those days. This is the weirdest thing. It is neither black nor white. There is nothing to it. Andrew Neil was around for a few months and I moved on. Then it was somebody else."

"At the time I felt well of him. Time is a precious thing and when you spend time with somebody you

cannot waste it. I liked Andrew because he was a self-made man from a council estate in Scotland. He has become somebody. To be self-made is a big deal."

She loves India, but hates Delhi with its pollution and crowds. She is friends again with her mother after a long estrangement following the London notoriety. The biggest force in her life now is her father, she says. She was obsessed with him until she was 16 because he was missing in action and perhaps she thought, not dead. "I fantasised that he was a prisoner of war and might come back. When you have a

father who was so brave you want to do well, too."

"Every time I am in trouble somebody is there to help me. A stranger comes into my life when I need someone. I have had my fair share of trouble. I don't want much in life. I don't need much. You can live in India very cheaply. I am looking for some land to buy in Rajasthan. I might settle there. After a while you have seen it all. I don't go to parties any more. They don't interest me. Some people work to travel. I do it the other way round. I really think I have found myself."

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Day two: Maureen Freely on the results of feminism; Giles Coren on manliness; Lotte Hughes on Masai men

Neither slipper slave nor hairy-leg brigade



In *A Room of One's Own*, Virginia Woolf imagines herself in the British Museum, reading a monumental work by a Professor von X entitled: *The Mental, Moral, and Physical Inferiority of the Female Sex*. Why, she wonders, did he and so many other male authors need to give the subject so much time and energy?

She concludes that they needed to think of women as weak so that they might feel strong in comparison.

"Women have served all these centuries as looking-glasses, possessing the magic and delicious power of reflecting the figure of man at twice its natural size. Without that power the earth would still be swamp and jungle," she says — but with it, men "start the day confident, braced, believing themselves desired at Miss Smith's tea party; they say to themselves as they go into the room, I am the superior of half the people here..."

In the 50-odd years since Woolf wrote those lines, the Professor von Xs of the world have had to make do with an ever-decreasing stock of magic looking-glasses. They blame feminism for this tragedy, so naturally they wish it would just go away.

Like exiled Romanovs, they live in perpetual mourning for the days when manual labourers could look forward to playing tsar in the comfort of their own homes.

This is true even of men who would never dream of uttering a misogynist sentence. Too often they speak wistfully about having come into manhood a generation too late.

More than once, I have seen Frank, my own staunchly egalitarian partner, have an envious sigh at the sight of my father sending my mother off for his slippers, his lunch, his sixth coffee in an hour. That said, I doubt Frank would be at all happy if he did suddenly find himself saddled with all those old "first sex privileges".

I don't think he realises how helpless my father feels in his deep culinary ignorance, how he panics when unforeseen events mean that he might have to put a ready-made meal into an oven *all by himself*, and how he does go hungry sometimes.

My mother, who was brought up to believe it was unladylike to talk back, is in the habit of expressing her displeasure by cooking fragrant micromenals: the more heinous the crime, the fewer mouthfuls he could expect.

I don't think Frank would like it if I did that to him. He would accuse me of trying to emasculate him, and he would be right. He does all the cooking in our house, partly to force me to do more work and earn more money. If I woke up tomorrow and told him that I had had enough of the workplace and wanted to devote myself to fetching his slippers and bringing toasted cheese sandwiches to his desk, he would be right to accuse me of letting the family down and thinking only of myself.

As my father could tell him, these first sex privileges don't come cheap. Frank belongs to the first generation of men who could get married without necessarily taking on a lifetime dependent.



The most dangerous sexism is not in male attitudes, but in the idea that one sex has to take precedence over the other

So no, feminism hasn't been all debit for the men of the world. The proof of its success is in the number of issues that used to be considered wild and radical hairy-leg brigade territory, but are now part of basic humanitarianism.

No decent man in this country believes, for example, that the police should turn a blind eye to husbands who beat their wives, or fathers who abuse their children. If a government came in with the proposal that we return to the good old days when women didn't fill out their own tax forms or hold their own bank accounts, most men would find it as laughable as women did.

But to say that attitudes have changed enough to make feminism obsolete, or that we have gone too far in the "other direction", is to misunderstand the problem. Culture, and not evil men acting in a conscious conspiracy, has

made women socially inferior. The most dangerous sexism is not in male attitudes *per se*, but in the idea that one sex has to take precedence over the other, and in the institutional details worked out over generations by men who think men are the first sex.

It takes decades, perhaps even centuries to change these things. If there isn't a feminist watchdog, it's more than likely that we'll lose the rights we've already won. This is not because men are plotting to return us to the slot labelled "second sex", but because culture has a way of reverting to type.

Of course, most men I know assume that you can't be a feminist without believing all men are bastards. They think so because this was the sort of thing a lot of prominent feminists said — and meant — when the most recent movement began in the early Seventies. But the world was

different then. There really were two separate domains in those days — the public one in which men dominated, and the private one in which female dependents held their own by cooking delicious, but very tiny, meals. Now both worlds are peopled by men and women.

As good as that might be for those of us who believe in equal rights, it creates new problems. The global economy has created a market place that never goes to sleep and

gives no man or woman a job for life. How to bring up a family? Own a house? Have a life? These are questions that neither Professor von X nor feminism can address alone — but it is a mistake to suggest, as so many do today, that women have to stop calling themselves feminists before the real debate begins.

The day we can seriously consider putting feminism behind us, is the day when no man sees any point in arguing that we don't need it.

WARRIOR CASTE

Men and women don't seem to know how to read each other any more. We fail to recognise the signals, we don't know who should make the moves and so, too often, we're notoring on parallel tracks. But rather than trade insults or retreat, why not admit to our mutual vulnerability and need?

Playing "cool", a useless concept even when it was first coined in the Sixties, has a lot to answer for. The idea is even more pathetic now — recycled as an accessory to brown hipsters and Mondrian shirts. Cool is what passionate people do when they're hiding. It's immobilising, infuriating, and essentially solitary.

The problem today is not so much that men behave badly, but that they don't do anything at all. Cool has led to emotional immobility and a sexual stand-off that serves no one.

The Masai, considered by many to have "real men" qualities, would never behave in such a way. Warriors dance, sing, cry, show tenderness, laugh, fight a little (it's officially outlawed), talk a lot to their sweethearts, take care of their families and communities. They may look tough, but they are true gentlemen with perfect manners.

I know because I lived with Masai warriors and their families in East Africa, and carried on a long romance with one.

What did I find so refreshing? Openness, warmth, humour, and a complete lack of neurosis. As Gerald Hanley wrote in *Warriors and Strangers*, "A good definition of the ridiculous or the impossible would be a Masai on a psychiatrist's couch talking about his sex problems or any other problems."

Though certain taboos are observed, sex is guilt-free for both men and women. And though Masai society is patriarchal and polygamous, I found that women have a fair amount of power and sexual freedom. It is not uncommon for an ageing wife to consort with a warrior of her son's

generation, as long as she is discreet.

Real warriors are also fearless. How can a girl fail to be impressed when her lover dashes off naked into the night to chase away noisy hyenas?

Western men, black or white, cannot import what these warriors have — it's not for the taking — but they can learn a few lessons from the boys in the bush.

It is a very tough act to follow. These men are attractive because they are "centred", self-assured without arrogance, knowing exactly where they stand in a society where roles are clear-cut and young men have status as defenders of the realm.

These men are truly in touch with their bodies. The Masai don't play drums: they use their bodies to make music such as throaty singing. Then they channel the energy into making love, not war.

They are also unashamed to cry and get emotional. I've seen real warriors weep and shake when their mothers shave off their locks at the Eunoto ceremony, which marks the passage to adulthood. My boyfriend said: "Crying is not a weakness — why should it be? It just shows you have sad thoughts."

Unlike British men who hang back when the going gets tough, these warriors defend their territory and their girlfriends. To my surprise, I rather liked it.

And they're actually great talkers, who communicate what they feel and think in a non-coercive way — without dwelling on the past. Disputes in Masailand are settled by talking. When I asked my boyfriend what most disputes were about, he said: "Division of labour and passion."

Love is expressed freely. As my warrior later wrote: "I have been dreaming of you, then I decide to write... I love you, and will keep on loving you forever."

LOTTE HUGHES



Real warriors weep: haircuts make them cry

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A MAN'S PLACE

I do not make much of a lad, at the best of times. My attempts at blokeishness almost always end in tears. But there used to be places that a man could go to, and one or two things that he could do, which allowed him to live the illusion once in a while. But all that has changed and manhood stands, as it were, on the edge of extinction.

I used to go to football, once a fortnight. Unshaven, dressed in a sleeveless Union Jack T-shirt, I ruggled on Woodbines and hurled abuse at foreign players. And then along came Nick Hornby, and Skinner and Baddiel, and Anna Walker from Sky Sport. And suddenly football was a place for birds. And then girls. And then women. And then ladies. At first there were only a few — nudge, nudge, wink, wink. Don't like the look of yours much — but now there are rows and rows of them, singing and cheering and wearing the team colours. I have had to start shaving on Saturday mornings, as if I were going to a dinner party. I iron a shirt, dab on a spot of cologne and brush my hair. Tragic. Have you ever tried holding open a turnstile for a woman? If you can't spit, swear and smell bad, what can you do?

Women have begun to take part in every sphere of life that used to be reserved for males, and the result is that men are being repressed. So I spark up a fat cigar to tap into that Churchill-Schwarzenegger-Castro side

of myself — the bearded, war-winning Terminator that lies dormant for most of the day. And as I puff, I turn to the style pages to find that cigar-smoking is the in thing for women. That Demi Moore, Zoë Wanamaker, Madonna, even Twiggy, are rarely seen without one. Twiggy? I do not suck a great big nasty Romeo Y Julieta No. 1. I can look like

Twiggy. Poker has not been the same since a woman called Gloria took £250 off me in a hand at the Victoria Casino on Edgware Road, and said, as she raked in the chips: "I've seen that play so often I felt like saying 'hello'." Pool comes into the same bracket. Pool clubs used to be badass places where you put the cash on the table, tossed a coin, then smashed your opponent. Now you get drinks for your girlfriend while she plays doubles with her mates, and the

Hell's Angels queue quietly for a vacant table. Nothing I do anymore, but nothing, marks me out as a man. The final word, after which I need say no more, is about nightclub lavatories. Women, identifying that the queues for the ladies are, for obvious reasons, much longer than those for the men's, have started brazenly flouting urinal convention.

"I need to pee just as much you, don't I?" said a young woman whom I challenged at the washbasins of a heaving nightclub. I suppose she did.

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John Major and the inevitability of appeasement

Alan Clark compares the Prime Minister to Neville Chamberlain

John Major wound up his best electoral performance since the 1992 campaign — the "informal" question and answer session on the stage at Bournemouth on Wednesday — with the assurance: "Next year... Same time, same place." Whether or not this undertaking can be met remains to be seen. Certainly it looks less unlikely than a week ago.

But I think it is no longer premature to essay a preliminary look at Mr Major's place in history. And, in particular, by a comparison with that of Neville Chamberlain, whose name — to the surprise of many at the time (five years ago) — Mr Major offered when asked to identify which of his predecessors he most admired.

Leaving aside for the moment their domestic achievements, there are remarkable similarities to their predicament. Each was faced with the problem of a European force which was rapidly growing in economic/military power and becoming annually more intrusive. The reality for both prime ministers was that Britain simply did not have the independent strength to ignore — still less defy — this force absolutely. Some kind of diplomatic accommodation needed to be reached. Yet each suffered from a section of their own party, and a tranche of the press, who saw the issues in grossly oversimplified terms and regarded any search for compromise as betrayal.

Chamberlain's geostrategic vision was clear — if cynical. The purpose of appeasement (at that time a perfectly respectable word) was to placate Germany in the West while tolerating — covertly if possible — the "adjustment" of territorial boundaries in the East which could, and should, have made a conflict between Russia and Germany inevitable.

Indeed it had been Chamberlain's predecessor, Baldwin, who, at a private meeting in 1934, four years before the Munich crisis, said that the best chance for Britain's survival lay in the two dictatorships ("The Huns and the Bolsheviks"), as he put it bleeding each other to death — or at least to impotence.

Mr Major has a similar assignment. In that patience and diplomatic guile are more likely to lead to the moderation of a force which — despite its inherent contradictions — looks ultimately to be profoundly menacing for British independence. If, or when, the European Union in its present form actually moves into a full federal structure with a single currency, the consequences should be clear to any unprejudiced observer. Social and economic imbalance, aggravated by bureaucratic incompetence and corruption, will rapidly bring about a situation which the Bundesbank cannot control.

Whether the German Government sees and acts on this before or after imposition takes place will be one of the conundrums of the next five years. But it will certainly be a situation, like the conflicts in eastern Europe in 1939, where Britain will be more comfortable as a spectator than as a participant.

Chamberlain had the advantage of a far larger parliamentary majority than Mr Major. Dissidents were fewer in number, nor were they popular, many of them, even in their own constituencies. Yet in the end, the pressures on Chamberlain were such that he had to enter into a series of pacts and regional alliances that were both impractical and dangerous.

In Mr Major's case he has suffered the additional vulnerability of a parliamentary majority so small that malcontents have been

able, often under a pretext that concealed their true, and frequently personal, motives, to disrupt business and exact concessions. And Mr Major, too, has been forced into the pretence, if not the substance, of seeking relationships with minor powers within the EU and apparently deluding himself with the notion that Britain was "speaking up for" the interests of the smaller continental nations. Like Chamberlain he has found himself into a suppliant attitude to the French, whereas an earlier approach to Germany would have been more soundly based.

But, also like Chamberlain, Mr Major enjoys a private realism border on the cynical. The principal threat, both to the country's equilibrium and to unity of the Tory party, is the approaching deadline for joining in the single currency. Mr Major's finess is to keep Britain on the fringe, a benign spectator, while this wholly impractical and now largely cosmetic — if not actually fraudulent — scheme starts on its short and calamitous life.

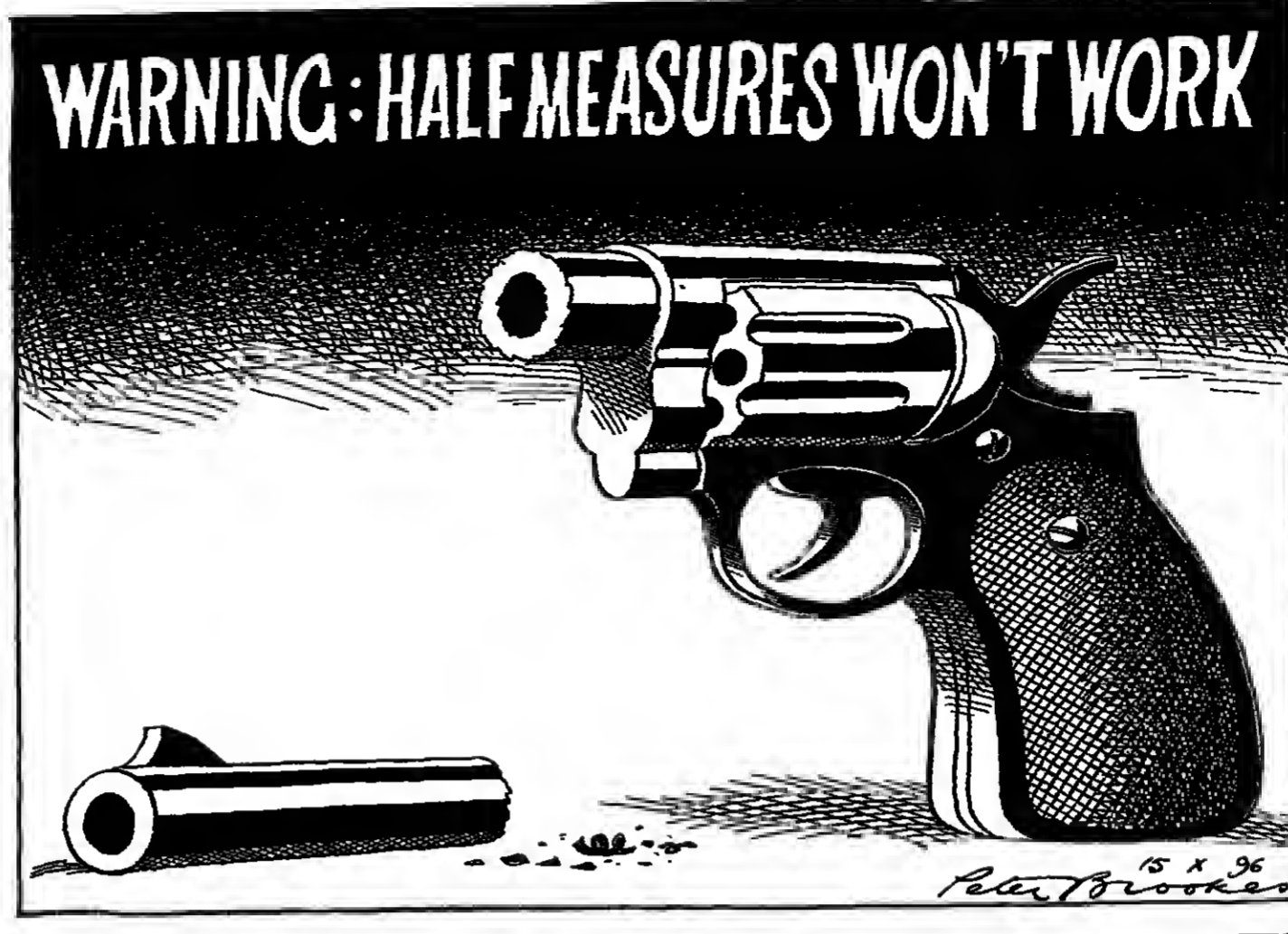
Even at its inception, the euro will be much weaker than the Swiss franc, the yen and the (existing) mark. Warning of the convergence criteria and deliberate obfuscation of all that transparency of data which the Bundesbank had originally been promised, will ensure that the whole structure collapses. It is as inevitable — though one assumes without loss of life on the same scale — as the collision between Germany and Russia in 1941 which Neville Chamberlain had foreseen as relieving the pressure on Britain.

Nor do the similarities end here. As well as virulent dissent from within his own parliamentary party, the Prime Minister has had to contend with a political opposition that is shamelessly opportunistic. Just as the Labour Party in the 1930s was broadly pacifist, exploiting war weariness to oppose rearmament of any kind, so does it today pretend that "Europe" is no more than a source of additional benefit of "fairness" through the social chapter; and, through the European Court, of a benignly intrusive political correctness.

Just as in the 1930s, the electorate do not seem to care very much; or even to be capable of focusing on what is at stake. In party terms the dispute rages internally, and in the disputations of an intellectual elite. But, as in the 1940s, it will only assume real political significance when the electorate as a whole realises the extent to which they have been misled, and the damage they have suffered.

This may yet be averted if Mr Major is allowed one to deploy his ingenious, though certainly unheroic, delaying tactics. (Just as one should remember that Chamberlain, although determined to avoid our declaring war and fighting on the mainland of Europe, did commission the eight-gun fighters, the Chain Home Radar system and much else to support our defence as an island.) At Bournemouth John Major said a revealing phrase: "I believe in the politics of reason." Let us hope for the country's sake that he is not rejected in favour of an individual whose policies are so redolent of the delusion that, to paraphrase Rab Butler, "politics is the art of the plausible".

Alan Clark's history of the Conservative Party from 1922-07, Tories and the Nation State, is to be published by Weidenfeld next autumn.



The overinformation

We are weighed down with useless facts — but a remedy is at hand

A big hand now, please, for a new disease. Stepping into the limelight to take its first bow is the very latest fin-de-millennium malady: Information Fatigue Syndrome. This is brought on by having too many pieces of information on tap, owing to the global electronic revolution and the fact that for the first time in history it is faster to process and transmit information than to read it (in the days of the quill pen and the manual typewriter, people thought twice before making the effort).

The disease has everything a modern ailment demands: panic attacks, palpitations, chronic exhaustion, joint pains, something called "e-mail rage", and sufferers prepared to testify that it took them five years' complete rest to get better. It can only be a matter of time before a celebrity succumbs in a public place, a pressure group is formed and poor Dr Stafford gets howled at again on the *Rantzen Report*.

Excellent, keep it coming, all this needs saying. Knowledge is power but information can be disabling. A report published this week says that one in four people get ill as a result of having too much information. It costs British industry 30 million lost working days a year, or £2 billion. There you are, another statistic to make you feel even worse. Unfortunately, 85 per cent of the UK managers also said that they needed the information; as long as the stuff is out there somewhere, they want it, even if it makes them poorly.

The psychologist Dr David Lewin extends this gloomy dilemma wider: "Professional and personal survival in modern society," he says, "clearly depends on our ability to take on board vast amounts of new information. Yet that information is growing at an exponential rate." He cites the old chestnut that a weekday edition of *The New York Times* contains more information than a 17th-century man or woman would have come across in a lifetime; and points out that the sheer strain of wondering what we should know, and where it is, means that we make stupid decisions and throw our bodies into a primitive "flight-or-fight" response. Brain chemicals command us to put a fist through the computer screen or run away and climb a tree; instead we have to stay

passively hunched over our reports, brochures, memos, manuals, graphs, tables and printouts, letting them eat us. And we get ill. Even Sunday at home becomes threatening. Just when we are getting to grips with EMU or Sir Gordon Downey, we are distracted by being told which headless shampoos contain organophosphates, that haddock may become extinct any minute, and that they have changed the rules on private pensions again. And that is before professional worries begin: in my handbag I have been carrying

show their cultural breadth by singing cod Gilbert-and-Sullivan doggerel which doesn't even scan (a terrible cry went up in this house during Mrs Bottomley's rendition of her anti-Blair conference song: "If this is Heritage, give me the mess of potage!"). We can't all be good at everything; we can't all know everything. It is worth quoting correctly, for once, Pope's much misused lines:

"A little learning is a dang'rous thing,
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring.

There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain
And drinking largely sobers us again".

Given that the Pierian spring is now poured unremittedly over our heads 24 hours a day, there are two cures for information overload: one immediate and practical, the other touching on a trouble so deep that it will take longer.

The quick fix is obvious: erect filters. This takes determination. Zoologically, we are programmed to be distracted by everything. A wildebeest would not last long if it were too busy eating to notice the fresh lion-droppings round the waterhole. We instinctively swivel to every stimulus, but this must stop. Blind eyes must be cultivated, pages turned, choices made.

In the business world, growing services provide business people with terse one-page newsletters on selected themes. Internet servers offer ever more sophisticated search facilities (though a correspondent of this paper claims to have been looking for "zen" and got all sex, senior citizens. That's his story and he's sticking to it). Businesses should make a priority of setting up filtering systems, and discourage e-mail abuse. For the rest of us, it is notable that the publishing success of the year is *The Week*, a 30-page digest of British and foreign news done with wit, a genius for precis and such comforting headings as "Boring but impor-

tant". In a year it has come from a garage office and 1,000 subscribers to more than 10,000. It provides a fine security blanket for those who get anxious about missing things.

With self-discipline and such aids, filtering is possible and real experience again becomes visible over the mound of information. But now the difficult bit: if we are not to try and know everything, we have to trust other people to. But while information is a glut commodity, trust has never been scarcer. The alarming slide in the reputation of public service in general and Parliament in particular is something that government has done remarkably little to halt, not even bothering to enforce the register of MPs' interests. Trust in professionals crumbles apace: government accelerated this process through years of viciously insulting teachers, clergy, and public services. And who really trusts banks, since BCCI and Barings? Or IMRO, which gave the Maxwell pension schemes a clean bill of health?

In medicine, mutual trust is threatened by spiralling litigation. In commerce, it is crushed between marketplace ethics and aggressive consumer rights movements. We are unsure of what is in our food, in employment, casualisation, and weasel contracts make it foolish to trust your employer or your employee. Everyone watches their back, all the time.

But to do this you need a lot of information, too much to take in and still get your own job done. Panic is never far from the most ordinary aspects of life. Come now — do you really understand how your PEP works? Or did you just choose it because you liked the logo of the Mutual Equitable and Hardly At All Dodgy Investment Trust?

That, really, is the problem. Society is very complicated now. Unless we restore trust in one another and in the professions, the outlook is grim. We will all chase so many facts that we lose our grip and enter a dark age of rumour. Unless we each drink deeper at our own well of learning, and trust those at the adjacent springs, we shall grow even less good at making rational decisions. The field will be left to snake-oil merchants, soothsayers with blue plaid pyramids and foxily eloquent journalists. Nightmare.

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Sleaze: a bad new wheeze

Labour's smears will backfire, says Woodrow Wyatt

So Labour and the Lib Dems have made a pact jointly to hurl sleaze accusations at the Government and Tory MPs. That makes a change. In April, at the Staffordshire South East by-election, the Lib Dems bitterly attacked Labour for its smear campaign against their candidate.

For Labour, sleaze is a cover to divert attention from the emptiness and obscurity of its somersaulting policies and promises. For the Lib Dems, it is a publicity stunt to cash in on the addition to their ranks of Peter Thurnham, the member for Bolton North East. Mr Thurnham's majority of 185 in 1992 was further threatened by a boundary change. But for Mr Major — who, to general surprise, won the election and carried to victory Tory candidates who otherwise would have been defeated — Mr Thurnham would not have held his seat.

This man of principle was looking for a safe Tory seat. With a house in Westmorland and Lonsdale, he thought he would be onto a good thing to succeed the retiring Michael Jopling, whose majority was a healthy 10,000. Mr Thurnham thought Central Office support was his due. But did not even ask him to attend an interview. Officially they said that, at 58, he was too old and they wanted someone younger. Privately, they thought little of him.

Thurnham was enraged and mysteriously blamed Mr Major, with whom (together with his wife) he had an interview before he announced last February that he would no longer take the Tory whip. If Westmorland had adopted him he would still be rooting for Major. Set on revenge, he timed his announcement for the end of last week's party conference, intending to damage Mr Major's spectacular success. Mr Thurnham said he could no longer bear the sleaze among Tory MPs and the Prime Minister's failure to deal with it.

It is possible to question his sincerity, though his wife's loss of enthusiasm for baking cakes for Tory functions sounds genuine. His claim that a knightship was hinted at to keep him quiet is fantasy. Knightships are never given to Tory MPs so briefly and unreliably in the Commons. Chief cheerleader for the Lib-Lab pact to make sleaze a big issue at next May's election is *The Guardian*. It has made use, whether accurately or not, of documents lodged with the court in the collapsed Hamilton libel case. If these documents are the only source of the allegations, then *The Guardian* would appear to have committed contempt of court. I hope the appropriate legal authorities will now investigate.

Targeting sleaze is a dangerous game, running the risk of a boomerang. When Tony Blair was a shadow minister he accepted, through the offices of the now notorious Ian Greer acting for businessmen opposing a Washington Unitary Tax, a free return trip to the United States on Concord. He did not declare the expenses of his visit in the Members Register of Interests. When this was referred to the Committee of Privileges, whipped Labour MPs walked out before he could be censured. Now the complaint is that David Willetts, a former whip, offered advice to Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, Privileges Committee chairman, when the Hamilton affair came before it. *Tu quoque*.

The Lib-Lab mesalliance complained yesterday that the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Sir Gordon Downey, lacks the resources and a wide enough remit to investigate the Hamilton affair. Downing Street has promised him full documentation and any extra staff he may need to report quickly. Was it sleaze when John Prescott, whom I like, got into violent conflict with Customs for his omission to declare dogable goods? Mr Blair thought Baroness Turner of Camden's directorship of Ian Greer's strange outfit, and her defence of its practices, looked like sleaze and promptly removed her from the Opposition front bench in the Lords. But the facts had been known for a long time, so why not act sooner?

Along with the legislators of Scandinavia and the old Commonwealth, ours is the least corrupt. But always some will fall. John Stonehouse, once a Labour minister, sensationally did it and went to prison. He had conspired with his mistress, Sheila Buckley, to fake his disappearance while swimming to enable them to live on money stolen from his own companies. Australian police arrested him thinking he was the missing Lord Lucan.

Party Whirl

CONFUSION hangs over the organisation of this weekend's Referendum Party thrash in Brighton. In public, the Cocktail Party is putting on a show of languid confidence. Try working out the plan for the conference however, and what emerges instead is a picture of gilded inertia.

Start with Friday night's entertainments. First a Referendum Rave was planned and then called off as seeming too frivolous. What is left is a round of dinners in Brighton's Grand Hotel. The hottest ticket had seemed to be Lady Powell's. This most expansive of political hostesses, the wife of Baroness Thatcher's former adviser Sir Charles Powell, was quickest off the mark.

Now it emerges that not only will Sir James Goldsmith be spending most of his evening backed up with his candidates rather than with Lady Powell's dinner guests as had been expected, but there is a new entrant to the field: Lord McAlpine.

McAlpine, having come late to the party, wants to throw a dinner on the Friday night, but has found

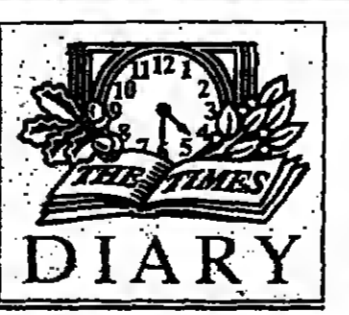
that all his prospective guests have already been snaffled up. So a compromise has been reached. McAlpine explains: "Jimmy's doing the candidates, Lady Powell is doing the pundits and I've got the rest of the press. No big gathering later on, just a few drinks and bed I should think."

John Walsh, an officer and former chairman of Bolton North East Conservatives, claims never to have clapped eyes on Mrs Thurnham, let alone chewed on her Dundee cake. "She did not deliver a single cake to association events the whole time I was there," he insists. Taking the argument onto the high ground, he adds: "The only cake of hers I ever sampled was one she made to thank us after the general election vote back in 1987."

Cake talk

THE Tory backlash against Peter Thurnham, defective MP for Bolton North East, is turning nasty with his local Conservative association accusing his wife of lying about her baking habits. Yesterday, Sarah Thurnham claimed in this newspaper that she has baked "hundreds of cakes" for the Conservative Party over the years garnering little reward for her husband in the process.

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overt MPs the mark is a black bruise under the third fingernail of the right hand. As Paddy Ashdown showed off Peter Thurnham, MP, over the weekend, he noticed that his newest recruit shared this same distinguishing feature. Ashdown said that he came by his black spot when he trapped his digit in a car door. Thurnham's was caused by an aggressive filing cabinet.

Font fun

QUITO will be the scene of one of the more exotic Catholic ceremonies tomorrow as Silvana Ibarra, Ecuador's leading pop-singer, has her first born christened. The child's godmother will be Lorena Bobbitt, amateur surgeon, and a close schoolfriend of Ibarra before leaving Ecuador for America and her fateful marriage.

President of Ecuador, and currently bestriding his native pop charts with his single "The Madman in Love".

Members of the Romanian National Opera currently touring Britain have had a new clause inserted in their contract: any excess baggage will have to be paid for. The rule change follows a mammoth shopping spree enjoyed by the 200-strong company the last time it toured here. On that occasion an additional pantechnicon had to be hired to take their purchases home to Bucharest. Among the notable



items which they bought were two cement mixers.

Cap happy

NO ONE is happier for Damon Hill than the members of the London Rowing Club, whose blue and white colours he wears on his helmet as his father did before him. Last week the club sent out a consignment of eight of their caps to the Williams team mechanics who were then in the pits on Sunday as Hill clinched his world title.

Graham Hill had been a successful oarsman for the club while Hill Jr., though not known for his sculling, is an honorary member. "We were delighted to see our colours victorious off the water as well as on," said Nigel Smith, club secretary. "We will be raising a glass to Damon at our club dinner."

P.H.S



Lady Powell and Lord McAlpine: dividing the workload

Padre Pio had his stigmata, the Devil his t66, but for Liberal Dem-

حكزنا من الاصل

مركز من الأصيل



POWERS AND PROCEDURES

Sir Gordon must have the authority to clear Parliament's name

Madant Speaker has grasped the nettle, Parliament's reputation and the public's faith in public life have been endangered by the allegations against Neil Hamilton and others. She has asked for "all necessary steps" to be taken to investigate this matter fully. The step most needful would have been the establishment of a tribunal of inquiry. The powers and procedures of such a tribunal would have ensured an investigation which could command public confidence. The Government's refusal to set up an inquiry is an opportunity missed. Instead, matters will be dealt with by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Sir Gordon Downey. If Sir Gordon's inquiry is to restore faith in the Commons then its members must delegate powers to him similar to those any tribunal might have exercised.

The Government argues that no tribunal could be set up because it would infringe the Bill of Rights, which holds that no outside body can question proceedings in Parliament. The Government's regard for constitutional proprieties would command more respect if it had not acquiesced in the amendment of the same Bill of Rights to allow Mr Hamilton to waive privilege and pursue *The Guardian* in his now aborted legal action. The Bill of Rights was established to protect Parliament from an over-mighty executive. Now it appears that the executive is invoking the Bill of Rights to protect itself while Parliament's reputation continues to suffer. If the Bill of Rights can be amended to allow one man to clear his name then it is right that it should be interpreted to prevent the whole of the Commons safeguarding its reputation?

It would have been decisively in John Major's interest to establish a tribunal. Even after a successful conference, sleaze allegations persist in undermining his administration. Decisive action which saw allegations investigated openly and the innocent cleared by a body untainted by association with the political process might have done much to restore faith in that process and his party. There is, after all, evidence of contact between a government whip and committee chairman which suggests that the executive may have influenced parliamentary procedure during a previous Commons inquiry. The most effective means of rebuilding confidence in Parliament would be for it to yield gracefully to a tribunal.

Unfortunately, it appears that no such body will be set up and so the Speaker is right to ask, in the interests of Parliament, that Sir Gordon be given the necessary powers to investigate matters authoritatively. Ideally, the whole House should now vote to give Sir Gordon powers to subpoena, compel evidence to be given under oath and allow cross-examination. Anything less would not allow Mr Hamilton, and others, their rights in natural justice. The evidence of Mr Hamilton's main accuser must be tested as stringently as it would be in court before judgment is passed.

By declining to establish an enquiry, the Government is placing a heavy burden on Sir Gordon. It must allow him to ask, in public, the necessary questions of all the participants. At stake is more than one administration's reputation; it is the standing of Parliament. A truly Tory Government should accept that the institution is more important than any of its current tenants.

FAMILY FIRST

Blair has started but not finished the argument

The best test of Tony Blair's speech on family values yesterday will be to see who disagrees with it. If it is not to be merely a political tactic, it must contain genuine elements of contention. As ever with the Labour leader, those who are most likely to disagree with his analysis and prescriptions are those on his left. Although his views on the family are probably in tune with Labour's traditional voters, it will be fascinating to see if Labour's interest groups accept the challenge.

Mr Blair did not call for a return to the 1950s nuclear family. Women's fulfilment will not be expected to come from a sparkling kitchen floor. What Mr Blair lamented was the loss of "decent British values". His vision of a "decent society" was summed up as one whose values are based on those of the extended family, where members have a duty to care for one another, where giving is as important as taking and responsibilities sit alongside rights. The family itself he recognised as the best training ground for inculcating these virtues, without which a decent society cannot function. So the family is extolled both as metaphor and reality.

The policy prescriptions that extend from this include a collective duty to attend to the new underclass, individual duties on parents to restrain their wayward children and the duty of the welfare recipient to accept work or training opportunities in return for benefit. Government itself, meanwhile, should assess for each of its policies the impact that it will have on the family.

This sounds reminiscent of John Major's ill-fated attempt to go back to basics in 1992. But while Mr Major was obscure in his original prescription and seemed to want to roll back the permissive society, Mr Blair has taken immediate pains to emphasise that he is talking about personal morality in its widest sense, not as a euphemism for sexual morality.

It is hard to bemoan family breakdown without recognising the part that marital infidelity plays in divorce. Both leaders agree that the disintegration of the family is the main cause of today's more disorderly society. While Mr Major blamed the 1960s for this, Mr Blair blames the 1980s. The Prime Minister's view is that the quest for self-fulfilment led to moral relativism, anti-authoritarianism and divorce. The Labour leader sees the individualistic 1980s as a time when those who could get on did, and those who could not were left to fester, leading to the creation of a self-perpetuating underclass, in which the traditional family is rare.

Which man is right? The economic changes of the 1980s certainly brought a huge shrinkage in the number of jobs available to unskilled men. Unemployed, and largely unemployable, youths are bad marriage prospects. Meanwhile, the benefit and tax systems have created disincentives to marriage, particularly for the poor and unemployed. The result has been a rise in never-married mothers, and a generation of men who have not been socialised by the need to provide for a family.

Mr Blair has problems too. The Prime Minister can make a good case for how the "me" generation of the 1960s put personal satisfaction before all other responsibilities. It is easier to make serious argument about the damage caused by ideas of 30 years ago. The 1980s are still too close for arguments about them to be as sure.

The Labour leader is right in principle, and realistic, in acknowledging that women cannot be sent back to the kitchen. But he has to accept too that adults have no inalienable right to the pursuit of happiness when children are involved. Such a statement will infuriate the liberal wing of his party, not just the left. This still unbroken taboo, however, is the logical conclusion to the argument he has begun.

AUSTRIAN ANXIETIES

Haider's success should surprise no one

The elections were only to the European Parliament, but the voting figures reverberate beyond the parliament's walls and beyond the borders of Austria. Joerg Haider's Freedom Party took its highest share of the vote since it burst on to the Austrian political scene a decade ago and Herr Haider now stands closer than ever to his objective of breaking up his country's ingrained habits of consensual coalition politics. Herr Haider's success may have sent a shiver down Europe's spine but no one can credibly claim to be surprised. Austria's mainstream parties show precious little sign of having learnt any useful lessons from the Freedom Party's steady rise.

Herr Haider's abilities as a mould-breaker do not efface his less attractive side. He tells foreign interviewers that he rejects immigration policies designed on racial lines while proposing tough immigration controls and insulting Turks, Bosnians and gypsies. His party's slate includes a Jewish candidate, but Herr Haider seems unworried when young members of his party deface Jewish graves or the police uncover connections between his followers and neo-Nazi groups.

But the argument which has propelled the Freedom Party to new heights exploits disappointment with Austria's membership of the EU. A survey released yesterday and funded by the European Commission found that after the also-disillusioned Swedes, Austrians were the least enthusiastic nation in the EU. The protest vote gathered by Herr

Haider registers disappointment which was inevitable after the social democrat-conservative coalition had encouraged such inflated hopes during a referendum on Austrian membership two years ago. Ministers furthered the impression that food prices would fall, that jobs would survive and that monetary union would be a painless fusion with a currency similar to the Deutschmark next door.

Food prices did not fall. The Government has just introduced a savage austerity budget made necessary by the Maastricht timetable for the single currency. Membership of the single market is slowly corroding the corporatist assumptions on which Austrian politics and the economy have been run for four decades. A society fixed from the top has been put on a crash course of learning about market forces.

These changes are long overdue. But decades of government by a two-party club has led to political inbreeding; politicians can no longer sense what voters want or will tolerate. A moribund consensus breeds extremism. Do Austria's politicians understand what will happen to their economy in a monetary union? A British politician recently warned that an ill-judged monetary union could create "a reaction amongst the people that could be severe, nationalist in tone and dangerous." That prediction came not from a Tory Eurosceptic but from Tony Blair. Europe's politicians who have so blithely sown the wind of monetary union are now reaping the whirlwind.

Call for limits on 'Crisis' of recruitment affecting the Church of England

sex-crimes register

From the Reverend J. Waddington-Feather

The movement away from traditional stipendiary parish priests (Church of England faces recruitment crisis), report, October 9 may mark a healthy sea change. In fact, it's a move back to the structure of the early Christian Church, where the laity took a very active role in pastoral ministry.

Pastoral responsibilities, such as visiting the sick and those in prison, were undertaken then by lay people. That is happening again increasingly today and making the Church more like the Body of Christ, a Church caring for the community it is part of.

With that in mind it is sad that the Reverend Stephen Trot of the MSF union's clergy section, should think the non-stipendiary priest any less available to the parishes. Such a priest is part of a team, not someone apart trying to shoulder all the responsibilities. His fellow parishioners should have been sharing in, as well as all too often the case in the past.

Mr Trot's thinking is outdated and misleading, as well as being offensive to conscientious non-stipendiary priests and lay people alike.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WADDINGTON-FEATHER
(Secretary, Hereford Diocese non-stipendiary ministers),
Fair View, Old Coppice,
Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, Shropshire,
October 9.

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JOHN WADDINGTON-FEATHER
(Secretary, Hereford Diocese non-stipendiary ministers),
Fair View, Old Coppice,
Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, Shropshire,
October 9.

20 traditionalists hold a freehold is patently wrong. There is today at least that number in training alone in two of the theological colleges.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY W. ARCHER,
Manor End, Little Gaddesden,
Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire,
October 9.

From the Vicar of Thurgarton

Sir, Although the effect of "downsizing" in industry has been criticised, the Church of England remains wed to decreasing its workforce, assuming that it will survive on the good works of a volunteer army of non-stipendiary ministers and other part-timers.

Bishops may appear to deplore the dwindling numbers offering themselves for full-time ministry, but they are at one in advocating a future which dispenses with the services of the paid clergy.

We need an independent royal commission to examine the future of the Church of England. Without it we are being presented with a visionless strategy, destined to erode our national Church as we now know it, and where none will benefit except the fund-managers of Anglicanism — the Church Commissioners.

Yours etc,
ANDREW DE BERRY
(Executive member, MSF union),
The Vicarage, Southwell Road,
Thurgarton, Nottinghamshire,
October 10.

AS clergy deployment alters the Church needs to integrate these complementary ministries and not perpetuate the differences.

I remain, yours etc,
MICHAEL FASS
(NSM), Penicuik and West Limon,
20 Fountainhall Road, Edinburgh 9,
October 11.

From Mr G. E. Miller

Sir, The Church of England has failed to recognise that many talented men and women are retiring earlier, including a good number with long experience in church work (ie, as licensed readers). Many have held responsible positions in other professions and management and still have much to offer.

What is needed is a more positive approach by bishops and clergy to identify suitable older candidates rather than leaving the initiative to the minority who offer themselves. In the meantime, many less to the ordained ministry will no doubt continue to seek alternative fulfilment by running charities and other voluntary groups.

I have no personal axe to grind; at nearly 62 I am clearly past my sell-by date.

Yours faithfully,
G. E. MILLER
(Licensed reader),
60 Ashley Road,
Bathford, Bath, Somerset,
October 9.

From the Reverend J. R. M. Cook

Sir, Recently, numbers attending selection conferences are slightly up, but greater than a numerical increase is the need for ordinands who are orthodox and of high integrity.

In 1995, the average age of men being ordained was 35 years and two months, which indicates there is a need to give particular attention to encouraging vocations amongst undergraduates and in our youth groups.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. M. COOK
(Director of Training),
All Souls Church,
Langham Place, W1,
October 10.

We therefore urge the Home Office to remove all consensual acts from the list of offences covered by the proposed register.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WADHAM,
Director, Liberty,
DIANA LAMPLUGH,
The Suzy Lamplugh Trust,
GERISON LANSDOWNE,
Children Rights Development Unit,
ANGELA MASON,
Snewell,
JOHN REA PRICE,
National Children's Bureau,
National Council for Civil Liberties,
21 Tabard Street, SE1,
October 14.

Three-strikes' policy

From Professor Emeritus A. M. Coleman

Sir, John Harding, the Chief Probation Officer for Inner London (letter, October 2), mentions only the temporary, negative effect of California's mandatory "three strikes and you're out" sentencing policy and not the positive side, which has already begun and promises to be long term.

The positive side is a substantial drop in crimes being committed now. Many potential re-offenders are being deterred by the heavier penalties.

The negative side concerns earlier crimes already at the stage of prosecution. Criminals know that they can no longer escape full punishment by pleading guilty to a lesser crime in order to receive a shorter sentence in return for not wasting court time. Plea bargaining of this sort has meant that the convenience of the judicial system took precedence over fairness in the justice administered.

Now that recidivists face an automatic life sentence, they have nothing to gain from plea bargaining. Their options are only life imprisonment or acquittal, and for any hope of the latter they must plead "not guilty" and go to trial. This is what is clogging the courts; but once the initial backlog has been dealt with, the diminution of contemporary crime will leave the courts unburdened.

The initial problem should be less in this country, as plea bargaining is less common, and the Government has been relieving the courts by enlarging the scope for small claims to be transferred elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,
ALICE COLEMAN,
King's College London,
Department of Geography,
Strand, WC2,
October 5.

Noises off

From Mr Gerald Kaufman, MP for Manchester, Gorton (Labour)

Sir, Matthew Parris ("Noises off" on a prosaic performance", October 12) records that John Major won cheers in his Tory party conference speech when "a baby began whimpering", by retorting: "What I'm talking about is that child's future." Consciously or unconsciously, Major was committing an act of plagiarism.

On October 10, 1964, during that year's general election campaign, Harold Wilson as Leader of the Opposition addressed a public meeting in Queensferry. The mother of a baby who started whimpering during Wilson's speech began to take the infant out. Wilson called out: "Don't take him away, this election is about his future."

Wilson had the additional imprudence to continue: "Anyway his contribution to this meeting is much more intelligent and much more mature than that of any young Conservative I've had to deal with."

In the ensuing general election, the nation's voters decided to entrust that baby's future to the Labour Party, just as they are likely to entrust to the Labour Party the future of the baby who interrupted Major.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD KAUFMAN,
House of Commons,
October 12.

Crossing the floor

From Mr John Hardman

Sir, Your report today on the departure of Mr Peter Thurnham from the Conservative Party is fair as far as it goes, but I would add an important point.

Mr Thurnham held Bolton NE in 1987 and 1992 against heavy odds and on the back of exceptionally hard work for the constituency. The Conservative Party has been happy to take the benefit of his devotion to duty, which is obviously fair enough in political life; but is not the party's shifty and spiteful reaction to Mr Thurnham's statements and decision itself somewhat sleazy?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HARDMAN,
1 Ravenswood,
Chorley New Road,
Bolton, Lancashire,
October 14.

Independent women

From Mrs Elizabeth Dean

Sir, It is not the psychologist Dorothy Rowe wide of the mark when she says "Until the early part of this century most women had no way of supporting themselves, unless they worked in domestic service, or as prostitutes or had inherited money" (article, October 10).

What of Marie Curie, Florence Nightingale, Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte, George Eliot, Dorothea Blew, not to mention the countless musicians, teachers and governesses this country always produced who, we trust, managed to avoid some of the above-mentioned options.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH DEAN,
52 Addison Avenue, W11,
October 10.

Dinner for six

From Mrs Renée Armstrong

Sir, I would be more than happy for Frances Bissell to cook a dinner for six in my home (letter, October 9); perhaps it would show my husband how very well I cope in an awful kitchen which he will not agree to refurbish because "it works all right".

Yours faithfully,
RENEE ARMSTRONG,
Heybridge House, Mill Hill,
Shenfield, Brentwood, Essex.

Watch on the Rhine

From Mr Andrew Sims

Sir, I was interested to read about the virtually insurmountable problems facing the transpennine canal project (leading article, "Hadrian's canal", October 11; also letter, same day). Perhaps a solution lies in a sentence in your subsequent leader, "Deutschmarks and Spencer", on Marks & Spencer's new store in Cologne: "until today the nearest outlet to Germany has been Strasbourg; now the Rhine has been crossed".

Just as the new store in Cologne, like Strasbourg, is situated to the west of the river, a canal which starts and ends on the same side of the Pennines will surely be much easier to design and cheaper to build.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SIMS,
Gaussstrasse 9, 53125 Bonn,
October 11.

Face-saving

From Mrs Edward Wake-Walker

Sir, Imagine, after nearly 14 years of marriage, the trauma of learning for the first time about your husband's bathroom problems in the Letters page of *The Times* (October 12).

I have naturally told him to go and boil his slimy flannel (along with his head) and to consult closer to home in future.

Yours faithfully,
FIONA WAKE-WALKER,
5 West Street,
Kingston, Wareham, Dorset,
October 13.

Powers of the Bar

From Mr Neil Addison

Sir, The suggestion that the Inns of Court might try to disbar barristers who have also qualified as solicitors (Law, October 8) would be a wholly unjustified abuse of the Bar's powers of self regulation. Professionals should only be expelled from their profession if they are guilty of dishonourable conduct or professional incompetence.

Rather than wasting time on this pointless exercise, the leadership of the Bar should get on with modernising the Bar's archaic rules so as to allow barristers to deal with clients directly, to form partnerships or to work as advocates in solicitors' firms.

Such a change would remove the reasons why barristers are requalifying as solicitors in the first place.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL ADDISON
(Member of the Bar Council),
5 Garsdale Road,
Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear,
October 8.

Minimum wage

From Mr Donald S. Brown

Sir, Why not enhance the dignity of labour by linking a statutory minimum wage to the statutory abolition of tipping?

Yours faithfully,
DONALD S. BROWN,
5 The Paddocks, Uphill,
Weston-super-Mare, Somerset,
October 10.

Nanny's rules

From Mrs Heather Wood

Sir, I read your report on the Dulwich Nanny Agency ("From Mary Poppins to status symbol", October 10) with a maelstrom. It seems that on the one hand the nannies supplied by this agency insist on being treated as one of the family, yet on the other hand they refuse to take rubbish out and want "sole use" of a car. Nannies, like other employees, should be treated with courtesy and consideration, but one of the family? Spare us.

What a contrast with the obituary of the nanny Ruth Anslow (October 12). We are told that she would roll up her sleeves and help in any domestic crisis, and that after a lazy Sunday lunch she alone of the party noticed a small child falling into a swimming pool and plunged in to rescue him. The Dulwich nannies need as if they would have been negotiating their overtime rates as the poor child expired.

Yours faithfully,
HEATHER WOOD,
55 Southby Road, NS,
October 13.

Conserving antiquity

From Mr G. de la Bédoyère

Sir, There are graffiti, and there are graffiti on archaeological sites (letters, October 10).

On the base of one of the Colossi of Memnon, across the Nile from Luxor, is the scratched announcement: *Camilius, hora prima semis auidi Memnoni*. It means, "At half-past the first hour I, Camilius, have heard the Memnon", a reference to the noise the cracked colossus made daily when the rising sun warmed it. Camilius was, I believe, an early second-century governor of the province of Egypt. The noise ceased when the statue was repaired many years later.

Personally, I was captivated. If Camilius was a vandal he had an eye for the moment, and I am pleased to have shared it with him.

Yours faithfully,
G. de la BÉDOYÈRE,
20 Eltham Park Gardens,
Eltham, SE9,
October 10.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 14: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a Reception at St James's Palace to mark the Seventeenth Anniversary of the Council for the Protection of Rural England and were received by the President (Mrs Jonathan Dumbleby) and the Chairman (The Lord Marlowe).

London WC1.
The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association, this evening held a Reception at Buckingham Palace.

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will present the World Ship Trust's Maritime Heritage Award and awards for individual achievement at Buckingham Palace at 10.30; as patron and trustee, will attend receptions at St James's Palace for young people who have achieved their first sea voyage.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Virgil, Roman poet, Andes, near Mantua, Italy, 70BC; Akbar I, the Great, Mughal emperor of India 1556-1605; Umasati, Sind, India, 1542; Evangelista Torricelli, designer of the barometer, Faenza, Italy, 1608; Friedrich Nietzsche, philosopher, Roken, Germany, 1844; John L. Sullivan, champion heavyweight boxer, Roxbury, Massachusetts, 1858; Marie Stopes, scientist and sex education reformer, Edinburgh, 1880; Sir Pelham (P.G.) Wodehouse, humorous writer, Guildford, Surrey, 1881.

Baron Alderdice

The life barony conferred upon Mr John Thomas Alderdice has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Alderdice, of Knock, in the City of Belfast.

Baron Paul

The life barony conferred upon Mr Swraj Paul has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Paul, of Marylebone, in the City of Westminster.

Baroness Farnham

The life barony conferred upon Mrs Farnham has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baroness Farnham, of London, in the County of Middlesex.

Baroness Williams

The life barony conferred upon Mrs Williams has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baroness Williams, of London, in the County of Middlesex.

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ARTHUR McCULLAGH, who has surprised villagers in Wool, Dorset, by leaving £1.3 million in his will. Mr McCullagh, 78, who was known as Pat, lived in a "basic" three-bedroom bungalow. He died in June and was a widower with no children. Locals said that he used to walk around the village in Wellington boots, old overalls with the pockets torn off, a sack wrapped around him as an apron and a rope for a belt. He is thought to have inherited his

Eccentric leaves £1.3m to charity

wealth from his mother and grandfather although he did own a caravan park. He bequeathed the bulk to four charities - the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, the British Heart Foundation, Help the Aged and the Brook Hospital for

Animals - and £20,000 to his parish council. Alan Brown, a neighbour, said: "Years ago he injured himself and sewed four stitches in a gash over his eye rather than go to hospital. His wealth has come as a shock to people. They thought he was poverty-stricken. By the way he dressed most people thought he was a gardener." Rod Webb, the parish clerk, said: "We need a new sports pavilion. Perhaps we could build one and name it after him."

Dinners

Corporation of London
Alderman Sir Alan Traill, Lord Mayor, presided at a dinner given by the Corporation of London last night at the Mansion House to mark the occasion of the visit of the President of Chile and Señora de Frei.

Birthdays today

The Duchess of York celebrates her 37th birthday today. Lord Amptill, 75; Lord Baden-Powell, 60; Sir George Bishop, former chairman, Booker McConnell, 83; Mr Craig Chalmers, rugby player, 28; Sir Howard Colvin, architectural historian, 77; Professor J.K. Galbraith, economist, 88; Mr G.T. Goodall, former Headmaster, Eton School, 67; Sir Julian Hodge, merchant banker, 92; Mr Alan Jones, chief executive, BICC, 57; Miss Catherine

Receptions

The Prime Minister was the host at a reception held yesterday evening at 10 Downing Street in honour of the Secretary and Associates' Council of the House of Commons.

Church news

The Rev Philip Kearns, Assistant Curate, St Paul (London), will be Vicar, North Shropshire, St Mary the Virgin (Chelmsford).

Legal appointments

Mr Roger Thomas Dutton has been appointed a Circuit Judge, assigned to the Wales and Chester Circuit.

Stipendiary magistrates

The following have been appointed Provincial Stipendiary Magistrates (England and Wales): Mr D. J. R. Smith, 45, former solicitor, appointed to the South Eastern Circuit; Mr J. C. Spence, 45, former solicitor, appointed to the South Eastern Circuit.

Memorial services

Mrs M.A. Ladd
The Queen attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Marie-Antoinette Ladd held yesterday in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The Princess of Wales was represented by Sir John Riddell, Princess Margaret and Princess Alexandra were present.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M. Dyer and Miss N.J. Gillet
The engagement is announced between Marcus, Lady For and Mrs. Christopher Dyer, of North Fetherton, Somerset, and Nicola, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Gillet, of Guildford, Surrey and of Kuwait.

Memorial services

Mr C.B.M. Maclean-Bristol and Miss K.E. Rowland
The engagement is announced between the eldest son of Major Nicholas and the Hon Mrs Maclean-Bristol, of Isle of Coll, Argyll, and Kim, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.S. Rowland, of Tansfield, Surrey.

Memorial services

Mr W.H. Parry and Miss V.J. Offord
The engagement is announced between William, elder son of Mr and Mrs James Parry, of Gosforth, Newcastle, and Lizzy, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Parry, of Gosforth, Newcastle, and Victoria, elder daughter of Major and Mrs Patrick Offord, of East Knoyle, Wiltshire.

Memorial services

Mr J.H. Posnett and Miss S. Wyman
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Sir Richard and Lady For and Mrs. Christopher Dyer, of North Fetherton, Somerset, and Nicola, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Gillet, of Guildford, Surrey and of Kuwait.

Memorial services

Mr J.E. Wyatt and Miss R.J. Adam
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, only son of Mr and Mrs E.H.E. Wyatt, of Fover, East Sussex, and Rachel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R.A. Adam, of Lilleshal, Roxburghshire.

Memorial services

Sir Anthony Parsons
A Memorial Service for Sir Anthony Parsons will be held at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, on Monday, October 21, at 3.30pm.

Memorial services

Lord Killern
A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Killern will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Thursday, November 21. All are welcome, and those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets to the Secretary, Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PL, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted from November 11.

Memorial services

Jim Andrew
There will be a memorial service for Jim Andrew, Clifton's cricket professional for 30 years, in Clifton Chapel on Friday, October 15, at 4.30pm. No tickets are required. Those who would like to contribute to a memorial fund are invited to send their contribution to D.C. Henderson at the school, making cheques payable to 'Jim Andrew Memorial Fund'.

Memorial services

Gerald Darling, QC
A Memorial Service for Gerald Darling, QC, will be held on Thursday, November 21, 1996, at 5pm, in the Temple Church, London, EC4.

Memorial services

Welsh Livery Guild
The following have been installed officers of the Welsh Livery Guild for the ensuing year: Master, Mr T.A. Owen; Senior Warden, Dr G. Thomas; Junior Warden, Mr J. G. Griffiths; Treasurer, Mr J. G. Griffiths; Secretary, Mr J. G. Griffiths.

BMDs: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

Jeune said to them, "Listen to me, all of you and understand this nothing that goes into a person from outside can defile him; no, it is the things that come out of a person that defile him. Mark 7: 14-15

BIRTHS

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 14: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a Reception at St James's Palace to mark the Seventeenth Anniversary of the Council for the Protection of Rural England and were received by the President (Mrs Jonathan Dumbleby) and the Chairman (The Lord Marlowe).

DEATHS

ALDERLEY - On 10th October 1996 at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, Middlesex, aged 84, Mrs. Margaret Alderley, nee Jones, of 12, The Grange, Alderley, Cheshire. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Alderley, on 12th October 1996 at 10.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Andrew's Church, Alderley, on 12th October 1996 at 2.30 pm. Flowers to the family on 12th October 1996 at 2.30 pm. Mrs. Alderley was a member of the Alderley and District Cricket Club and the Alderley and District Football Club. She was also a member of the Alderley and District Tennis Club and the Alderley and District Golf Club. She was a devoted mother and grandmother. Her husband, Mr. Alderley, died on 15th October 1988. She is survived by her son, Mr. Alderley, and her daughter, Mrs. Alderley. Her funeral service will be held at St. Andrew's Church, Alderley, on 12th October 1996 at 10.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations to St. Andrew's Church, Alderley, on 12th October 1996 at 2.30 pm. Flowers to the family on 12th October 1996 at 2.30 pm.

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OBITUARIES

HENRI NANNEN

Henri Nannen, German journalist and art collector, died on October 13 aged 82. He was born on December 25, 1915.

For more than 30 years Henri Nannen was one of the most powerful men in European journalism. As editor-in-chief of the German magazine Stern, which he founded in Hanover in 1948, he created the supreme example of a glossy, general-interest weekly, each issue a brightly enticing lucky dip of frothy features and serious news. It was a potent formula, much copied, and it brought Nannen wealth and influence. His Stern's glory days, and the great career of the man known as "Sir Henri", came to a dismal end in 1983, with the fiasco of the forged Hitler diaries.

Nannen was not directly responsible for the forgeries' publication. He had retired as editor three years before Stern (together with The Sunday Times) was so spectacularly duped by its own reporter Gerd Heidemann and his accomplice, the forger Konrad Kujau. But he had remained influential as the magazine's publisher and eminence grise, and he accepted his full share of the blame. When the editors who had presided over the scandal resigned, Nannen stepped in to replace them, and it was he who wrote the editorial apologising to the magazine's 1,600,000 readers.

He had, in fact, opposed publication all along, but his doubts concerned only the way the material was being presented. He felt that "the journalistic coup of the postwar era" demanded more comment and historical context. As it turned out, he was right. But Nannen, like everybody else involved in the decision to pay millions of deutschemarks for a collection of crude fabrications, had never doubted that

the diaries were authentic; it only because he, like most of the others, had never actually looked at them too closely. The fiasco of the bogus diaries was in some ways a consequence of Stern's earlier triumphs. Nannen had always edited by instinct, and his journalistic instincts were ruthless. In its very early years, Stern's aggressive reporting led more than once to trouble with the Allied occupying authorities; then, as throughout the three decades of Nannen's editorship, the magazine was as likely to make news as to report it. Sensationalism was never far away, but it was a policy that paid dividends in advertising and circulation. It gave Stern both the confidence and the cash to bring off its most catastrophic swap.

Henri Nannen was born in Emden in northern Germany. His father was a policeman and sometime social democratic councillor, later dismissed without a pension by the Nazis. After attending the local Gymnasium, Nannen worked briefly as an agricultural labourer and did a one-year apprenticeship as a bookseller, before studying history of art at Munich University in 1934. His interest in art remained with him, and he was to build up one of Germany's most important collections of 20th-century painting.

Until the outbreak of war, he worked on art magazines in Munich, including one called Die Kunst im Dritten Reich [Art in the Third Reich] some of his articles there showed a positive attitude to the Nazi regime that was to be held against him in years to come, but he was not a party member, and he eventually lost his job after reviewing a book on Rembrandt by a Jewish author. During the war he served in the Luftwaffe, though there were later accusa-



tions that he had, in fact, been a member of a Waffen SS propaganda unit. His wartime record appears to have satisfied the occupying authorities, however, and in 1946 he was awarded the first newspaper licence in Lower Saxony. There, in Hanover, he edited two papers, and founded a magazine for young people called Zickzack. It was this that he turned into Stern. The first edition of the new weekly was published on August 1, 1948. It soon had the highest print run of any magazine in continental Europe. Its aim, Nannen said, was to stand up for the individual in an age of increasing corporatism and regimentation. That policy put the Cold War at the centre of Stern's concerns. In 1958 Nannen

publicly offered to run uncensored articles by East German reporters, if the GDR's Communist regime would reciprocate by printing uncensored material from the West; the offer was not taken up. More seriously, he combined a belief in closer relations with Eastern Europe with an unwavering concern for human rights. This made him a close ally of the Social Democratic regime of Chancellor Willy Brandt in Moscow and Warsaw. Nannen was at his side. Nannen turned Stern's influence to good effect on the wider world stage, too, launching an Ethiopian appeal in 1973 which raised some DM22 million in a matter of weeks. But some of the other occasions on which the magazine

itself made headlines were less edifying. In 1962 it offered a large reward for the return of a valuable stolen painting, promising not to report the thieves to the police; the ploy worked, to widespread disapproval. In 1975 Stern was criticised for printing a transcript of a huffed telephone call by Helmut Kohl. And in 1978 Nannen was taken to court by a group of feminists, protesting that his magazine's endless parade of bonoms and breasts degraded women; he responded by passing nude pictures of two of the protesters round the courtroom. Nannen had sold his financial interest in Stern to various publishing partners very early on, but he was well enough rewarded during his years as editor to be able to build up an

impressive collection of art, with particular emphasis on German Expressionism and Neue Sachlichkeit. He amassed a fine array of works by such artists as Beckmann, Kokoschka, Nolde and Kirchner, and when he finally gave up his involvement in Stern amid the strife and recrimination that formed the bitter aftermath of the diaries affair, he concentrated on his plan to present his collection to his home town of Emden, and to build a new museum to house it. The Emden Kunsthalle was opened in October 1986. Illness prevented Nannen from attending its tenth anniversary celebrations. Henri Nannen is survived by his third wife, Eske, and by a son and stepson.

PROFESSOR TOM AP REES

Tom ap Rees, Professor of Botany and Head of the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Cambridge, was killed in a cycling accident on October 3 aged 65. He was born on October 19, 1930.

of plants has never enjoyed the glamour or the funding of other aspects of biology. Tom ap Rees fought to redress this imbalance as a member of the Science and Engineering Research Council's committee on plant science and microbiology, of which he was chairman from 1985 to 1987, and again on the plant and microbial sciences committee of the Biotechnology and Biological Research Council, which he chaired from 1988. In 1991 he was appointed to the chair of Botany at Cambridge and became Head of Department. He proved to be an extraordinarily dynamic and successful administrator, eager to take up the cudgels on behalf of any and all members of the department and energetically pressing its cause within the university. All over the country, university departments of botany have been merged with other departments and in many cases sunk without trace. The justification was usually the emergence within biology of new disciplines — biochemistry, cell biology and genetics — that appeared to run across the old divide between plants and animals. It was ap Rees's vision that molecular genetics, especially the new technology of genetic transformation for which plants are well suited, would revitalise the old subject of plant physiology; and he foresaw that it was essential to keep together all the branches of botany under one roof if we were to make proper use of mutants and transgenic plants as experimental organisms. His own research on the metabolic exchanges between plastids and the rest of the cell, for instance, had always pointed up the uniqueness of plants and he was quick to adopt transgenics for testing the function of enzymes in the control of metabolism.

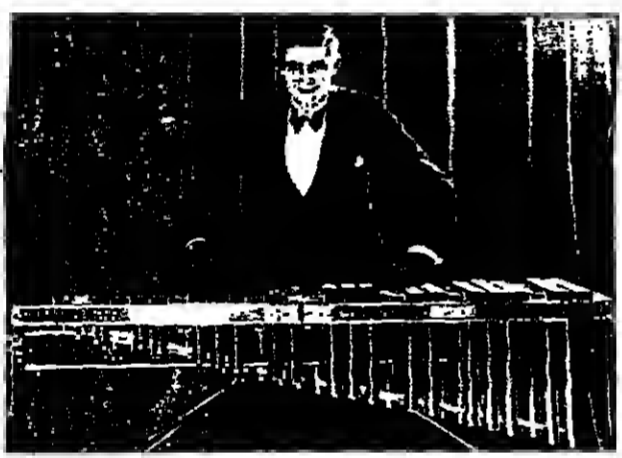
Generations of Cambridge cell biologists will remember Tom ap Rees's unique style of lecturing. With half an eye to student ratings, the average don in a woolly pullover today jokes his way through the anecdotal hour, mainly sharing the fruits of his intellect with a relaxed audience which knows that anything of any importance that he is saying is in the wedge of notes supplied. Immaculate in starched collar, ap Rees would launch invectives of fierce administrative, unapologetically laying down the black and white of wrong and right. Like an Old Testament prophet, he spoke with unerring conviction and a severity of tone that instilled in his undergraduate listeners a profound respect. Surprisingly, his lectures were still among the most popular. He had the gift of rendering down the maze complexities of metabolic pathways and their intricate webwork of mutual interaction to the stark essentials, expressed with firm clarity and so accessible to all. More important, he espoused a philosophy of experimental science that many students found so compelling that they adopted it, working in his laboratory on research into plant metabolism for a PhD that would launch their own careers.

Thomas ap Rees, as he was christened, was educated at Llandoverly College and, after National Service with the Royal Corps of Signals, in which he was commissioned, read Botany at Lincoln College, Oxford. He went on to study for his DPhil at Oxford under J. L. Harley, researching the physiology of beech root mycorrhiza. After a year and a half of post-doctoral research at Purdue University, Indiana, he was appointed to a lectureship in mycology at the University of Sydney in 1959. He taught there for a year before taking a post with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation in Sydney as a senior research officer. In 1964 ap Rees was appointed to a lectureship in Cambridge, at least partly on the strength of reports filtering back from Australia of the brilliant young teacher. Although renowned for lecturing, as an experimental scientist he also laid great stress on the importance of teaching practical skills, making his Cambridge debut with an ambitious series of classes in biochemistry for first year cell biologists. In 1965 he was elected a Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, the start of a lifelong association. In spite of its towering importance for the lives of every human being, the study

of plants has never enjoyed the glamour or the funding of other aspects of biology. Tom ap Rees fought to redress this imbalance as a member of the Science and Engineering Research Council's committee on plant science and microbiology, of which he was chairman from 1985 to 1987, and again on the plant and microbial sciences committee of the Biotechnology and Biological Research Council, which he chaired from 1988. In 1991 he was appointed to the chair of Botany at Cambridge and became Head of Department. He proved to be an extraordinarily dynamic and successful administrator, eager to take up the cudgels on behalf of any and all members of the department and energetically pressing its cause within the university. All over the country, university departments of botany have been merged with other departments and in many cases sunk without trace. The justification was usually the emergence within biology of new disciplines — biochemistry, cell biology and genetics — that appeared to run across the old divide between plants and animals. It was ap Rees's vision that molecular genetics, especially the new technology of genetic transformation for which plants are well suited, would revitalise the old subject of plant physiology; and he foresaw that it was essential to keep together all the branches of botany under one roof if we were to make proper use of mutants and transgenic plants as experimental organisms. His own research on the metabolic exchanges between plastids and the rest of the cell, for instance, had always pointed up the uniqueness of plants and he was quick to adopt transgenics for testing the function of enzymes in the control of metabolism. In October 1995 he took on the acting directorship of the Cambridge Botanic Garden, then under threat, and played a large part in securing its future. In his own large garden, a former orchard, he ingeniously trained roses over old apple trees and tended all his own vegetables. Partly thanks to his membership of the council of the Senate of the university, on which he worked tirelessly in the interests of biology, his administrative workload was extraordinarily heavy. Astonishingly, though, he still managed to stay accessible to his staff and the large number of research students whom he supervised. Even his relaxation was arduous. Every summer vacation he would tackle a punishing schedule of alpine peaks. It was his particular joy, wherever he might be, to discover a railway journey to a mountain and then climb it. He kept fit in Cambridge by cycling every day the long road out from his village to work. It was on his return journey home that he was killed. He is survived by his wife, Wendy, and their three sons.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER DUDLEY DIXON

Lieutenant-Commander Dudley Dixon, DSC and two Bars, MBE, home secretary of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 1947-82, died on October 1 aged 80. He was born on August 30, 1916.



On battlefields noted for log, shallows and minefields, actions — often carried out amid a blaze of tracer shells and explosions — required courage, coolly-directed fire-

power and nimble ship-handling. Casualties were high but the successes of the actions were illustrated by the many decorations awarded to Coastal Forces men.

After his initial training, Dixon was appointed in 1942 as an RNVR officer to HMS Beehive, the Coastal Forces base at Felixstowe where he was soon to be put in command of motor torpedo boat No. 452. His first DSC was won in a spirited night action off Cherbourg on May 11, 1944, three weeks before D-Day. Wounded in the leg, he was back in action by the time the invasion began, although still walking with a pronounced limp. As the artist and naturalist Peter Scott — then serving as a lieutenant-commander — was taken more than a limp to keep Dixon out of the fighting. Constantly in action off the Cherbourg peninsula, Dixon's flotilla was in the thick of the

most dramatic and successful period of Coastal Forces' operations — a week at the end of August 1944 — when the Germans were trying to reinforce the sea and then evacuate Le Havre by sea as well as interrupt the logistic support of the invasion forces. One particular action began with Dixon's group of three MTBs chasing three E-boats until they joined a convoy off Fécamp. Moving in to attack the convoy, he found three coasters about 400 yards off shore, strongly escorted by E-boats. Under the bright glare of starshells and constant fire from shore batteries, he set one coaster on fire and damaged an E-boat. Under cover of this diversion the French destroyer La Combattante was able to creep in and sink two further ships and an E-boat. The convoy turned back but was wiped out by further MTB attacks. Two nights later Dixon was again co-operating with La Combattante when the final remnant of German shipping sailed from Le Havre, having mined the harbour. It was attacked by Dixon with three MTBs who sank two coasters while the destroyer set another on fire and damaged a fourth. The remaining ships dodged into Fécamp. Dixon was awarded his second DSC. As the Allies advanced, Dixon's group moved from Portsmouth to Dover and then back to their home port at Felixstowe. His final DSC was earned when, on the night of April 7, 1945, his two MTBs were guided by the radar of the frigate Thornborough to the vicinity of a group of E-boats. In a surprise attack, two E-boats were sunk. Dixon and his crew appropriated some superior German lifejackets and afterwards, to the mild annoyance of the authorities, used to wear them. On May 13, 1945, Dixon was

present at the final dignified surrender ceremony between E-boat and Coastal Forces leaders when the British escorted the E-boats from the devious at sea to Felixstowe. He retired in 1946 as a temporary acting lieutenant-commander. The son of a Nottingham person, John Dudley Dixon trained as a solicitor. He was a keen musician and played the marimba (a type of xylophone) in Jack Hylton's band in the late 1930s as well as solo pieces for the BBC. Shortly after the war he became the home secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, a High Church Anglican missionary society founded in 1701 and merged with the Universities' Mission to Central Africa as the USPG in 1965. He coordinated interest in and fundraising for the society throughout the UK and, with his lawyer's training, acted as the guardian of the society's constitution. He earned a fine reputation for his application and polite persuasiveness and was appointed MBE for this work in 1980. His musical talents surfaced again with an enthusiasm for the cimbalom, a form of xylophone played by Hungarian gypsies and for which there is no music written. He used to make trips to Budapest, and after 1956, to Amsterdam and The Hague to play with gypsy bands of the diaspora. Indeed, during the Soviet invasion of Hungary, his north London house was home to an entire Hungarian gypsy band. Dixon was also a great enthusiast for Lagonda motor cars and, until recently, himself owned a fine specimen. His first wife Gladys died in 1955. He is survived by his second wife, Francesca, whom he married in 1987. There were no children.

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Trust Churchill's to help you Conquer your stairs in one easy step

COURT & SOCIAL FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES

COURT & SOCIAL FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES

THE DROUGHT. ENGLISH RAINFALL DOWN BY HALF

ON THIS DAY October 15, 1921

Mean Machine makes up ground on leading team



THE gap at the top of *The Times* Interactive Team Football overall competition has narrowed. Mr J. Staszewicz, from Ramsey, Isle of Man, remains the leader, but with only three points separating his team, NST Monkstone, from the second-placed Mean Machine, the first enforced mid-season break — due to international matches — has not done him any favours.

The weekly winners is Mr D. Mathieson, from Whitnashaven, with his team I Ate Yorkshires. Mr Mathieson might be languishing in 129.37th place in the overall competition, but with 36 points this week, he gains the £250 prize. Mr Mathieson's team is:

Goalkeeper
G Marshall (Celtic)

Full backs
L Dixon (Arsenal)
M Jackson (Everton)

Central defenders
T Boyd (Celtic)
S Campbell (Tottenham)

Midfield players
D Beckham (Manchester Utd)
R Fox (Tottenham)
V Jones (Wimbledon)
R Wallace (Leeds)

Strikers
E Bo Anderson (Rangers)
G Stuart (Everton)

Manager
R Aitken (Aberdeen)

It is early days, but if your team could be doing better,



Ian Wright scored twice for Arsenal on Saturday. He is the leading striker in ITF, having notched up 26 points.



you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. You can use the ITF transfer system which allows

you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Caring Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

□ All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other enquiries can be made on 01522 488 122.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS			
42611...	IN	Eyal Berkovic	Southampton £1,000
30303...	MOVED	Paul McGrath	Derby County £2.5m
	(from Aston Villa)		
51903...	OUT	John Hendrie	Millwall £0.75m
	LOANED PLAYERS		
		E McGoldrick	(from Arsenal to Manchester City, one week), M Taylor (Derby to Crewe, one week), D Vissani (Derby to Manchester City, one month), C Holland (Newcastle to Birmingham, two weeks), B Angel (Sunderland to Rotherham, one week), T Wright (Northampton Forest to Reading, two weeks), R van der Laan (Derby to Wolverhampton, one month), S Fitzgerald (Wimbledon to Millwall, one month). Loan periods subject to fluctuation.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Caring Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennants Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED	
Goalkeeper	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts
Saves penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts
Saves goal	3pts
Midfield player	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	2pts
Saves goal	2pts
POINTS DEDUCTED	
Goalkeeper	2pts
Concedes goal	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt
All players	3pts
Sort of	1pt
* must have played for 75 minutes in the match	
* must have played for 45 minutes in the match	

Call the ITF hotline on 0891 866 968. Outside UK: 0044 990 200 668.

ENTER TIMES ITF BY TELEPHONE — THERE ARE BIG PRIZES TO BE WON EVERY WEEK AND EVERY MONTH

The Manager of the Week and the Manager of the Month are up for grabs from now until the end of the season. You could be a winner of either by entering a team today. The Manager of the Week or Month can be won by any team no matter where it is in the league, the prize for the Manager of the Week or Month simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one week or month.

The prize for the Manager of the Week is £250 cash, plus a £250 Sports Gift Voucher for an amateur football team in your community — as nominated by you. The Manager of the Month will receive £1,000 cash.

You can still be a big winner in ITF. To enter today, just follow the instructions below.

Enter ITF by phone on **0891 405 011**

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom, call 44 990 100 320

- You must use a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone).
- Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
- Do not spend more than £35 million.
- Do not choose more than two individuals (2 players or 1 player and 1 manager) from any one football club.
- Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow these step-by-step instructions.
 - You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager.
 - You must speak the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) your name, address, with postcode, and daytime telephone number.
 - Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number and your chosen team as no postal notification will be sent.

0891 calls cost 45p per minute cheap rate and 50p per minute at all other times. Your call will cost approximately double if made from a pay phone. In the event of there being more than one Manager of the Week or Month, the winner will be chosen at random. All ITF rules apply, a copy of which will be made available on request.

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 866 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £35 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at other times. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player out Club:

Player in Club:

Player code:

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	NST Monkstone	(J Staszewicz)	168	107	AC Fantasy FC	(M Skipp)	158
2	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	165	108	Wolfeaton Wolves	(D Rowland)	158
3	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	161	109	Alton XI	(A Djerri)	158
4	Skyforest	(A Burton)	191	110	Smelly Wellies XI	(A Shabir)	158
5	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	178	111	Carless Whisper	(L Geary)	158
5	Mean Machine	(P Ford)	178	112	R and N Flashboys	(R Brown)	158
7	Plastic Filters 10	(T Feehly)	178	113	Lassoes One	(M Price)	158
8	Jones Boys Three	(M Jones)	177	114	Give Chesterfield	(K J Burns)	157
9	Gangsters	(A Loan)	177	115	Alf	(K Farhall)	157
10	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	175	116	Rigby's Roarers	(A Rigby)	157
10	Noah's Ark	(G P Dolan)	175	117	The Foreign Legion	(A Cheung)	157
12	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	174	118	Joeywalkers	(D Ashton)	157
12	Storm	(P Mills)	174	119	Hede Yuk Spilt	(J Roberts)	157
13	Blaze United	(N Murray)	173	120	Whirled	(G Atkinson)	156
14	Beyond Fault	(P Foster)	173	121	Best Of The Best	(R Ruparaka)	156
14	Pin Ups Two	(P Tustler)	173	122	Bacon Sandwich	(D L Davies)	156
14	Tulip's Top	(D Tulip)	173	123	Over The Moon FC	(R Roscall)	156
16	Nobby 6	(J Brown)	172	124	Smyth's Stankers	(M Jack)	156
18	Hopeful Hotshots	(H Rimmer)	172	125	Clover Vale	(N Ensligh)	156
18	1st Eff	(K J Burns)	171	126	Digger	(D Finlay)	156
20	Flying Foreigners	(D Thompson)	171	127	Head Men Can Manage	(R E H Tullcliffe)	156
22	Brain's Team	(S Howes)	170	128	Sitting Ducks	(A Piano)	156
23	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	169	129	Wales' A Rounders 2	(B A Goddard)	156
23	Henning Berg Kick 1	(J Miura)	169	130	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	156
23	La Bouffoniere	(J Roebuck)	169	131	Wales' A Team	(N Broonhall)	156
23	Arrogant FC	(K Taylor)	169	132	Blue Stars	(S A James)	156
23	Thompson's XI	(G Thompson)	169	133	Inter Jaltas FC	(M Broonhall)	156
23	Thom Footery FC	(M Moran)	169	134	Toto Calcio	(A Daye)	156
23	Beyond Care	(P Foster)	169	135	Oct95-ITF Champ	(M Sladden)	156
29	4 2 2	(K Browne)	168	136	Equinox Eagles	(S Abbott)	156
29	Arrol & A	(A Luckhurst)	168	137	Hart Kart XI	(A Kerr)	156
29	Sky Times III	(L McCullough)	168	138	FC Vary Much So	(A P Howard)	156
33	Beeston Celtic	(B McGivern)	167	139	Golden 11	(L Mills)	156
33	Nobby 34	(J Brown)	167	140	Brill XI	(R Segar)	156
33	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	167	141	Slego Slouches	(B McCarrn)	156
33	Purple Palm	(G Gohil)	167	142	Chief's Crusier Gang	(C Godden)	156
37	Expense Fallures	(L Michaelis)	166	143	Fowler's Fury	(B Byrnes)	156
37	Lesley's Legmen	(S Harper)	166	144	Hutton Holopur	(P Sheridan)	156
37	Wether's Wanderers	(D Wetherall)	166	145	GR Team II	(S Brook)	156
41	Athletic Storm	(P Mills)	166	146	Foreign Legion	(K Gilling)	156
41	Deggors	(V Cox)	166	147	Wales' A Team	(N Jones)	156
41	School For Goals	(K Booth)	166	148	Hazza's Dream Team	(P Thornton)	156
41	Set Against Cys	(S Shipley)	166	149	Raz's Rovers	(N Fazole)	156
41	Former Champions	(A Murhabin)	166	150	Rodents Rovers	(M Daniels)	156
41	La Boue And 2 Veg	(M Sawley)	166	151	Uni Boys Ltd 1	(B Gardiner)	156
46	Where's Ray Gone?	(P Fromm)	164	152	Jones Boys Sky	(M Jones)	156
46	Friends 36	(R Newbould)	164	153	Chris	(J Bradwood)	156
46	Hull Red Devils	(R Fyfe)	164	154	Sweeney Abson	(Trie)	156
46	Ginger FC	(C Armstrong)	164	155	Fortun Sardelich	(A A Fink)	156
46	AB 4	(A Boyland)	164	156	Stars And Strips	(P Thompson)	156
46	Revel On Toast	(N Bowles)	164	157	Half A Chance	(T Rowdng)	156
46	T 20	(T Bezzan)	164	158	Jack Son Of Ripper	(R Eddon)	156
46	Rollins Raiders	(P M Handley)	164	159	Innocent	(J Morgan)	156
46	Erevenge On Judus F	(N Hir)	164	160	Calabar Mariners	(J Morgan)	156
56	E	(N Corless)	163	161	The Untouchables	(D Fox)	156
56	Nobby	(J Brown)	163	162	JS August Monthly 2	(J Swiften)	156
56	Dour Rangers 3	(J Clayton)	163	163	Murray's Magicians	(M MacMillan)	156
56	Jermy's Skatas	(D S Mills)	163	164	Down's Destroyers	(L A Tomlinson)	156
56	Rapid Vametas	(M Forrest)	163	165	Priory Rangers	(R McCullough)	156
56	Crouch End Rovers	(M Mitchell)	163	166	Jason's Boys Four	(J Goring)	156
56	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	163				
63	Airstic	(I Fyfe)	162				
63	Down And Out	(I Carruthers)	162				
63	Kamler's Cronies	(E D Kamler)	162				
63	Classics At Me	(P Nayler)	162				
67	Burch Girls	(M Burch)	161				
67	Dynamo Hibs	(S Miller)	161				
67	I	(M Corless)	161				
67	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohil)	161				

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Call the ITF hotline on **0891 866 968**. Outside UK: 0044 990 200 343.

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NEWS

Speaker urges full sleaze inquiry

The Speaker increased pressure on the Government over the cash-for-questions affair by demanding a full and speedy investigation into "very serious" allegations made over the past three weeks.

Betty Boothroyd's intervention on the Commons' first day after the summer recess means that the parliamentary watchdog is likely to get more staff and other resources for a wide-ranging inquiry over several months.

Mowlam pleads with jailed terrorists

Mo Mowlam, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, tried to shore up the loyalist ceasefire by meeting 12 Protestant paramilitary inmates at Maze prison. They told her that their ceasefire would be maintained only if London and Dublin clamped down on the IRA.

Cullen eschews ban

Lord Cullen is believed to have stepped back from calling for a total ban on handguns in his report on the Dunblane massacre, which has been delivered to the Government.

Mercy killer freed

A man who killed his brother to end his suffering from a degenerative illness walked free from court after his case was described as exceptional.

Block on diabetic

A diabetic man has been refused permission to emigrate with his family to Australia because he may impose too heavy a burden on the country's health system.

'Le Trib' cuts costs

The International Herald Tribune, the American newspaper which first began publishing in Paris more than 100 years ago, may soon be driven back to the United States by high costs in France.

Global cooling

A sharp cooling of the planet occurred this year, reversing the warming trend that began in the early 1980s, Meteorological Office scientists said.

Backing for Birt

John Birt's shake-up of the BBC World Service was broadly endorsed by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, in the face of widespread criticism of the reforms.

Drug test failed

Mark Toul, Britain's Olympic bobsleigh driver, has been banned from the sport for life after testing positive for anabolic steroids.

Promotion doubts

The second most senior officer in the Army could be beaten to its top post of Chief of the General Staff in a string of Defence Ministry appointments.

Merson on his own

The footballer Paul Merson and his wife disclosed that their six-year marriage had collapsed under the strain of his recovery from addictions to drinks, drugs and gambling.

Anti-EU vote

A group fiercely opposed to European integration made the strongest gains in Austria's European Parliament elections.

Clinton fallout

Two of President Clinton's top advisers, George Stephanopoulos and Defence Secretary William Perry, disclosed that they may not serve in a second Clinton Administration.

Warlords target Kabul

Forces opposing Taleban met in the strategic Salang Pass to discuss moving south to capture Kabul, the Afghan capital, from the Islamic militia.

Muddy voyage through time

A boat enthusiast who, 21 years ago, dug out a derelict Victorian yacht from the mud of an Essex estuary with his bare hands has been told that the vessel could now be worth more than £1 million. Edward VII and the future George V are believed to have been among those who were entertained on board the Sorceress.



Seeing spots: part of the ready-to-wear collection by the Japanese designer Junko Koshino on the catwalk in Paris yesterday

BUSINESS

Euro conflict: Kenneth Clarke put Britain at odds with Germany and many other EU members over single currency plans.

Bounce back: Stephen Hinchliffe, whose collapsed Facia empire is being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office, is using a £50 million German shoe chain to fund a possible return to the business arena.

Economy: Encouraging figures on industrial costs and prices helped the stock market to hit another record high.

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 11.9 to close at 4040.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 87.8 to 88.0 after a rise from \$1.575 to \$1.5795 and from DM2.4124 to DM2.4158.

SPORT

Rugby union: The Scottish Rugby Union has banned an Edinburgh Academical prop for four years for serious foul play.

Football: Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, has been charged with misconduct by the FA for his offensive salute to Tottenham Hotspur supporters.

Motor racing: Damon Hill, the 1996 Formula One champion, has been riding on the Bullet Train between Nagoya and Tokyo, celebrating his title victory.

Racing: The Derby is to have a supplementary entry stage for the first time in its 216-year history, to ensure participation of the best horses.

ARTS

Oxford honours: After a £4 million lottery-funded facelift and several narrow escapes, the Oxford Playhouse is to reopen tomorrow with a world premiere.

Classical choice: The weekly guide to building a record library looks at Wagner's Parsifal, and Karajan takes the honours with the Berlin Philharmonic.

Rubens in the country: The National Gallery shifts its focus from fat ladies to Rubens's stunning landscapes in an important new exhibition.

Power struggle: For once the soprano takes a back seat as servant and master assume command in Glyndebourne's touring production of Mozart's Marriage of Figaro.

FEATURES

Don't look back: Pamela Bordes and Andrew Neil, former Editor of The Sunday Times, were lovers in 1989. She feels no fondness for his autobiography.

The Second Sex? In day two: did men need to think of women as weak in order to feel strong? Maureen Freely on results of feminism; Giles Coren on manliness; Lotte Hughes on warriors.

LAW

New Supreme Court? Are the Lords of Appeal in Ordinary (their full title) becoming more extraordinary? Plus this year's Times Law Awards.

Protecting old age: The new laws governing occupational pensions are causing upheaval within the industry.

On the doorstep: Businesses in the North East are spoilt for choice when it comes to finding commercial lawyers.

THE PRESS

Joerg Haider, with his ultranationalism and his sneering approach to European integration, has achieved a better result in the Austrian elections to the European Parliament than even he could have hoped for. His steady electoral progression, with its basis in hostility to a Europe directed from Brussels, should give cause for thought to other members of the EU.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FASHION Iain R. Webb, fashion journalist of the year, on his impressions of the Paris catwalks

PROPERTY How to live like a lord: Rachel Kelly on renting historic homes



TV LISTINGS

Preview: The heroin trail is followed from poppy fields to the streets of Britain in Network First (TV, 10.40pm). Review: Lynne Truss on the perfect formula of Vets' School.

OPINION

Powers and procedures

A truly Tory Government should accept that the institution of Parliament is more important than any of its current tenants.

Family first

The best test of Tony Blair's speech on family values will be to see who disagrees with it.

Austrian anxieties

Europe's politicians who have so blithely sown the wind of monetary union are now reaping the whirlwind.

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES

Unless we restore trust in one another and in the professions, the outlook is grim. We will all chase so many facts that we lose our grip and enter a dark age of rumour.

ALAN CLARK

Chamberlain had the advantage of a far larger majority than Mr Major. Dissidents were fewer in number, nor were they popular, many of them, even in their own constituencies. Yet in the end, the pressures on Chamberlain were such that he had to enter a series of pacts and regional alliances that were impractical and dangerous.

PETER RIDDELL

The Tories are correct that British public life is not particularly corrupt, or "sleazy", by international standards, but that is precisely why there now needs to be the fullest possible investigation.

OBITUARIES

Henri Nannen, journalist and art collector; Lieutenant-Commander Dudley Dixon, former home secretary of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel; Professor Tom ap Rees, Professor of Botany and head of the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Cambridge.

LETTERS

Church of England recruitment; paedophile register; sentencing policy; Peter Thurnham, MP.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,299

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for clues. The grid is partially filled with letters.

- ACROSS: 1 Anchor and take in sail, unloading last of fish meal (8). 5 It may be added to the drink display (6). 10 Bark, presumably, was written to do thus as promised (7,3,5). 11 Early childhood's current delusion (7). 12 Escaping charge, possibly, for unauthorised disclosure (7). 13 Soldier escorting sweetheart in dance (8). 15 Bovine of inferior quality (5). 18 The verse Frost recited (5). 20 Roguish as Conservative in mass meeting (8). 23 Criticism, perhaps, for scene of operations (7). 25 Adopt half of them and provide support (7). 26 Cling to remote possibility, punning novelist's family in conflict (4,7,4).
DOWN: 27 Seek ways to make appointments (6). 28 Bitter lot almost destroyed book (8).
SOLUTION TO PUZZLE NO 20,298: A grid of letters with some words highlighted in bold.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

Table with 2 columns: Region and Forecast. Lists various UK regions and their weather conditions for the next 24 hours.

AA ROADWATCH

Table with 2 columns: Road Number and Status. Lists major roads and any reported issues or closures.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table with 2 columns: Location and Time. Shows sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have showers and sunny intervals. In eastern regions, rather more persistent rain will be slow to clear in the morning but then the day will be mostly dry. Wales and other western regions will have the heaviest and most frequent showers. Temperatures will be around normal.

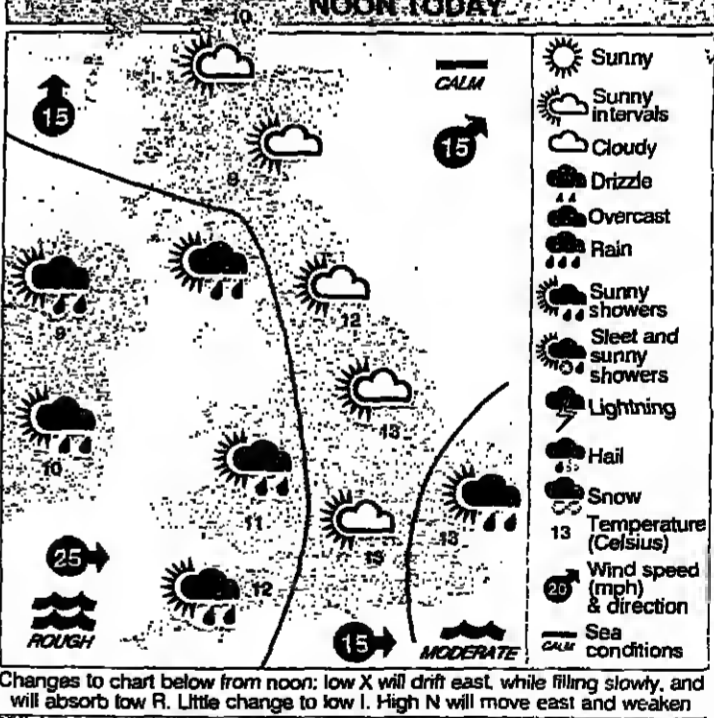
AROUND BRITAIN-YESTERDAY

Table with 2 columns: Location and Weather. Summarizes weather conditions across different parts of the UK from the previous day.

ABROAD

Table with 2 columns: Location and Forecast. Provides weather forecasts for various international locations.

NOON TODAY



HIGH TIDES

Table with 2 columns: Location and Tide Time. Lists high tide times for various coastal locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table with 2 columns: Location and Temperature. Shows the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in various locations.

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POST NATAL ELATION. New baby? Next happy event is the Health & Safety Plus Maternity Benefit cheque in the post. Well worth a £100 a week. WPA Western Provident Association FREECALL 0500 45 93 23

RNLI RESCUE UPDATE - 15 OCTOBER 1996. Total number of lives saved so far this year: 717. Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 3,458. Cost to RNLI per day: £173,000. Cost to taxpayer: £0. To make a donation, telephone: 0800 543210.

Lifeboats. The National Lifeboat Flotilla. RNLI. 0800 543210.